International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper | R | Paris, Friday, May 9, 1997 | No. 35,516

TODAY: LEISURE — Vietnam's Superbowl, Page 10

In Kinshasa, Fear of Its 'Protectors'

Pillaging Armies Haunt the Capital

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Zaire — Although six years have passed, not a day goes by when Antoine Nehme fails to recall the September 1991 morning when he arrived at his general merchandise store in central Kinshasa to discover that he had lost everything to army looters.

"The trouble started early one Monday morning, when they told me there were soldiers shooting all around town and that I shouldn't go out," the 70-year-old Lebanese merchant said.

"I started down the street anyway, and then I ran into my neighbor, who was returning home dressed only in his underpants. He told me that's what they were doing to foreigners caught in the streets and said that I'd better get back home."

With thick smoke rising from central Kinshasa and gunfire heard throughout the day, Mr. Nehme, who moved here in 1977 to escape the war in Lebanon, waited anxiously for daybreak the next day, when he set out with a soldier he had hired to accompany him to his shop.

But like every business in central Kinshasa, where money-traders fingering thick wads of nearly worthless cash, more than ordinary shoppers, crowd the streets these days, Mr. Nehme's store was already empty.

"They even ripped out the dirty carpet," he said. "It was a total loss."

For those who lived through the early 1990s here — a turbulent period when opposition groups first began to openly challenge the rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko, and Mr. Mobutu responded by unleashing his soldiers on the city — there is no prospect more frightening than a repeat of the pillaging of Kinshasa in 1991 and 1993.

With its broad boulevards and high-rise buildings, Kinshasa was intended, first by the colonial Belgians and later by Mr. Mobutu himself, to be a showcase. But ask anyone when the grungy and battered feel of this city of five million dates from, and almost as if speaking of a Biblical disaster, they will tell you the fall occurred in those twin rounds of destruction.

As all of Zaire anticipates the transfer of power between Mr. Mobutu, 66, who is suffering from terminal cancer, and Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader who controls most of Zaire, no immediate stake looms larger than whether this city can avoid more death and destruction.

Some of the fiercest fighting in the seven-month-long war has been taking

See KINSHASA, Page 6

Michel Euler/The Associated Press

Bill Richardson, the U.S. envoy, said Thursday that Marshal Mobutu would probably meet again with the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila. Page 6.

Open Wide for the Laser

U.S. Approves Alternative to Dental Drill That Could Virtually Eliminate the Pain

By Patrice Apodaca
Los Angeles Times

In a development that could revolutionize dentistry and virtually eliminate the pain of having a cavity filled, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a laser system for treating tooth decay.

The laser could usher in a new era in dentistry in which the often painful procedures of using drills to remove tooth decay and prepare cavities for fillings will be replaced by relatively pain-free laser methods.

The laser system, manufactured by a California company, consists of a console and a fiber-optic cable with a handpiece at the end that looks like a standard dental drill. Like drills, it uses water or air to cool and clean the tooth during treatment. Dentists and patients will be required to wear goggles during procedures to shield their eyes.

Previously, dental lasers were approved only for use on soft tissue such as gums.

"Use of lasers in dentistry is medicine for the 21st century," said Bruce Burlington, director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "This will give dentists and patients a significant new option for treating decay and doing other related procedures." The food and drug agency announced its approval of the system Wednesday.

[An FDA spokesman, Sharon Snider, told the International Herald Tribune that while it appeared that the laser was less painful than conventional drills, "we're not allowing them to make a claim that it's pain-free."

[A spokesman for the American Dental Association, Chris Martin, said laser technology was already in use for treating cavities and other dental procedures in Germany and Japan.]

See LASER, Page 7

Ahmed Azakir/The Associated Press

TAKING SECURITY RELIGIOUSLY — A soldier and his dog searching 70,000 seats Thursday at the site in central Beirut where Pope John Paul II will hold Sunday Mass during his first visit to Lebanon. The site will be able to hold about 300,000 people.

Swiss Reject Overhauling '46 Pact on Nazi Loot

Because of Holiday, U.S. Report Generates Only Muted Reaction

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

ZURICH — A day after a sweeping U.S. condemnation of its financial dealings with Nazi Germany, Switzerland ruled out on Thursday suggestions that it renegotiate agreements regulating its responsibilities for World War II transactions and rejected Washington's accusation that it failed to live up to them.

At the same time, Swiss Jewish groups issued new demands that money from gold bars worth about $70 million still held from the wartime era at the Federal Reserve Bank in Manhattan and the Bank of England be distributed among Holocaust survivors.

On a holiday, Ascension Day, that closed businesses, newspapers and government offices throughout the country, many Swiss had only cautious things to say about the long-awaited Eizenstat report, which was issued Wednesday in Washington.

The initial assessment of most political parties was that the report brought little new to what had already been published or suspected in months of debate here.

"The Eizenstat report wasn't billed as a big happening," said Oliver Meiler, a 28-year-old journalist. Indeed, said Hermann Wanner, a World War II veteran of the Swiss Army, "These revelations are what we have become used to from America."

Speaking anonymously, a 54-year-old banker in Geneva said, "Sometimes you just have to stop and say: This is history."

Any outrage was reserved not so much for Washington's accusation that Switzerland failed to respect agreements struck in 1946 to hand over Nazi assets other than gold as for parts of the report confirming that the Swiss National Bank bought bullion from Germany that contained gold stolen from individual Holocaust victims, including fillings from teeth.

"I cannot imagine how such things could happen," said Roland Trauffer, the secretary of Switzerland's Catholic Bishops Conference.

"To think there were people who could enrich themselves this way: The idea fills me with revulsion."

The 200-page report, compiled with help from 11 government agencies under the direction of Stuart Eizenstat, U.S. undersecretary of commerce, had been in the works for months. During that time, Switzerland squirmed under largely substantiated accusations from U.S. politicians and Jewish organizations that it traded unscrupulously with Germany during World War II and, in the postwar era, blocked efforts by Jews to gain access to bank deposits left by victims of Nazi persecution.

The mounting outside pressure has

See GOLD, Page 6

Republicans Return Foreign Donation

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Republican Party returned a campaign contribution of more than $100,000 on Thursday, acknowledging that the money originated from a Hong Kong company and not from a subsidiary incorporated in Florida.

It was by far the largest reimbursement by the party, which previously had returned $15,050 in questionable campaign donations.

It put the Republicans nowhere near the $3 million in dubious donations returned by the Democratic National Committee, but analysts said it would provide Democrats with a handy rebuttal when the issue is raised.

"It certainly puts the Republicans on the defensive," said James Thurber, director of the American University Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. "It embarrasses them and shows that both parties should be investigated regarding their foreign contributions."

James Nicholson, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said Thursday that the party had had no reason to question the legality of the contributions before Time magazine reported last week that Young Brothers Development-USA, the Florida-registered company that made the donation, was a shell company controlled from Hong Kong.

Time reported that Young Brothers was controlled by Ambrous Tung Young of Hong Kong, a former Taiwan naval officer who is the Asian agent for several aviation companies. It added

See FUNDS, Page 6

Hormone-Treated Meat Is Ruled Fit for Europe

World Trade Body Overturns EU's Import Ban

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — A panel of the World Trade Organization has declared that the European Union's nine-year ban on hormone-treated beef is illegal, a big victory for the American cattle industry that also blazes new trails in the area of national sovereignty.

The preliminary report, which has not yet been released to the public, declares that Europe's import ban on beef produced with growth-enhancing hormones is illegal because it has no scientific justification, U.S. government officials who have seen it said Thursday.

If it is upheld, which experts on all sides believe it will be, it is likely to set an important precedent for attacking scores of other trade barriers, from Japanese certification of apples to European rules for poultry inspection, that are based on health concerns.

But it also marks an unprecedented use of international trade law to overturn local laws that have adamant popular support. Unlike many import restrictions, the European ban on hormone-treated beef was not erected to protect local farmers but rather to assuage widespread popular angst among European consumers over chemicals in food.

Indeed, the ban applies equally to European and non-European farmers, so it does not give domestic beef producers any direct protection against foreign rivals.

The ruling could also have a direct bearing on potential disputes in the future over genetically engineered crops, which raise some of the same political issues as hormone-treated beef. American companies are already marketing genetically altered corn that resists root worms and soybeans that are impervious to powerful pesticides, and both products have already generated intense political opposition in some European quarters.

But the ruling could someday cut the other way as well, forcing the United States to drop health or environmental regulations that have broad popular appeal but which do not pass scientific muster in an international tribunal.

The issue before the three-member panel of the World Trade Organization was whether the ban was grounded on any scientific evidence that the use of hormones might endanger health. American farmers routinely use five hormones, including progesterone and testosterone, to make cattle grow faster and produce more milk.

The consensus among scientific experts was that there is no such evidence, and the five hormones used by Amer-

See TRADE, Page 6

Israel's Legal 'Torture' Draws Growing Protests

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — For a 20-year-old Palestinian student named George, the ordeal began with his arrest at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He was taken first to the Jerusalem jail known as the Russian Compound, and after three days transferred to the interrogation center at the Ashkelon prison.

For the next 17 days in December 1995, George endured what thousands of Palestinians have suffered at the hands of Israel's secret police, what Israel officially terms "moderate physical pressure," and human rights groups call torture.

He was kept sleepless in contorted and excruciating positions with a foul smelling bag over his head, he was threatened, he was beaten, and he was subjected to violent shaking until he passed out.

Israel, of course, is not alone among its neighbors in using physical coercion to extract information. The Palestinian Authority of Yasser Arafat has been accused of torturing several prisoners to death, accounts of torture are common in several Arab countries, including Syria and Iraq, and cases of police brutality are rife in every society.

But alone among its neighbors, and in a departure from the Western democracies whose values and laws it shares, Israel has sought to codify and legally justify the use of violence in interrogations, and the Israeli Supreme Court has regularly condoned the practice. Some Israelis defend this as an advance: an attempt to acknowledge and assert control over the more brutal forms of interrogation, which Israelis often argue are necessary and inevitable in any nation's fight against terror.

But now the approach is being fiercely criticized by human rights groups in Israel and abroad. On Wednesday, in Geneva, the United Nations Committee Against Torture summoned Israel for an extraordinary hearing to face accusations that its practices violate the international convention against torture.

Israel's accusers argue that regulating the use of torture only condones and encourages it.

The Israeli response in Geneva, as it

See ISRAELIS, Page 7

The Associated Press

DEATH ALOFT — Karachi relief workers carrying one of six victims of a fire after fuel tanks were jettisoned by a Pakistani plane. Page 4.

AGENDA

Blair Stakes Out Legislative Agenda

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and his new cabinet formulated the first legislative package to be put to Parliament by a Labour government in 18 years, including consideration of the country's first "freedom of information act," its first laws regulating campaign fund-raising by political parties and reform of the National Health Service.

The 17-month legislative program of about 17 to 20 proposals, agreed to by the cabinet Thursday, will form the backbone of the new Labour government's plan to implement its ambitious campaign promises. The program will be formally presented in a speech read by Queen Elizabeth II when Parliament convenes Wednesday. Page 5.

The Dollar

New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7083	1.719
Pound	1.62	1.6137
Yen	123.75	125.015
FF	5.763	5.7977

The Dow

	Thursday close	previous close
+51.77	7136.62	7084.85

S&P 500

change	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
+4.29	819.91	815.62

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The IHT on-line http://www.iht.com

Asia's New Red Revolution? It Comes in a Wineglass

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — As Filipino singers crooned "Love is a wonderful thing" amid a blaze of colored strobe lights, Edmund Wu relaxed against a large pink cushion on a sofa with his left hand caressing the shoulder of a pretty nightclub hostess and his right hand cupping a glass of Chateau Lafite-Rothschild.

Club Bboss in Kowloon was filling up fast and Mr. Wu, a 28-year-old executive of a Hong Kong trading company, was waiting for two Japanese clients to arrive for an evening of business dealing and entertainment.

"I used to drink Cognac," he said as he watched the next act, a group of topless British dancers. "But now I prefer red wine because it's better for health and discussion. My friends prefer it, too." Especially if it is a Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, which costs 2,000 Hong Kong dollars ($258) a bottle.

Although the cavernous marble and mirror-lined nightclub remains a bastion of serious Cognac consumption — the traditional drink of Chinese banquet toasts and revelry in Hong Kong — wine in the territory and many other parts of Asia is becoming fashionable in a big way.

As wealth spreads and consciousness about health grows, more and more Asians are drinking wine in restaurants, clubs, bars and at home in preference to local or imported spirits.

In fact, when control over Hong Kong passes to China from Britain at midnight June 30, many of the celebratory toasts in the territory and on the mainland will be with wine.

Wine traders say that health concerns are driving the red wine revolution in Asia.

"No race on earth pays more attention than the Chinese to health, in terms of what to eat and drink or not eat and drink," said David Webster, director of the wine division at Remy China & Hong Kong Ltd., a unit of France's Remy Martin group. "The Hong Kong Chinese have clearly come to believe that drinking red wine has health benefits while drinking Cognac in

See WINE, Page 6

Newsstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Riels
Egypt	£E 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Italy	2,800 Lire	Spain	225 PTAS
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	Tunisia	1,250 Dh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

Yearning for Glory / **A Resurrection in Lebanon**

Music Returns to Baalbek

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

BAALBEK, Lebanon — There are reasons this place has an unsavory reputation. In the dark days of Lebanon's civil war, many Western hostages spent time in a garrison overlooking Baalbek. The radical Shiite Muslim organization that held them, Hezbollah, strutted unchallenged in the town, partly because of the backing of large numbers of Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Even today, Hezbollah and its allies maintain bases in the surrounding Bekaa region, and from time to time Israel attacks them.

Enter Mstislav Rostropovich.

If all goes as planned, the cellist will take the stage here this summer in an effort to resurrect the image of another Baalbek, whose vast acropolis and soaring Roman temples have attracted tourists from around the world since the 18th century.

The occasion will be the reopening of the Baalbek Festival, which from 1956 to 1974 attracted a stunning range of artists, including Rudolf Nureyev, Herbert von Karajan and Ella Fitzgerald, but which — like so much of Lebanon's gloried past — has long since faded into distant memory.

In some ways, the talk of renaissance carries a note of self-deception. To reach Baalbek, one must still negotiate countless checkpoints manned by Syrian soldiers and plainclothesmen, the force that holds sway in what is sometimes known as Lebanon's Wild West.

The shabby streets of the town, which has a population of about 50,000, remain adorned with posters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader lionized by Hezbollah for his establishment of an Islamic state. There are also yellow banners whose slogans, meant to inspire the town's Shiite Muslim residents, might seem a jarring counterpoint to an evening of fine music: "Martyrdom is a gift that comes from God."

But all across Lebanon, emblems of an old spirit have begun to re-emerge even amid the horror left by bombs, rockets and artillery shells.

On the sea north of the capital, the Casino du Liban is back in business, replete with extravagant floor shows and legions of high-rollers. In Beirut, there are two Hard Rock cafés and new clubs and restaurants open every week. And to replace a rundown airport badly damaged by the war, a sprawling new complex is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

By law, Americans may not visit Lebanon without a special waiver from the State Department, reflecting continuing concerns within the U.S. government about the future intentions of Hezbollah, held responsible not only for the 1983 bombing that killed 241 American servicemen, but also for other attacks that leveled two U.S. embassies.

Other Western governments long ago lifted all such restrictions, but most European embassies still advise their nationals that it would be most prudent to travel to Baalbek as part of an organized group.

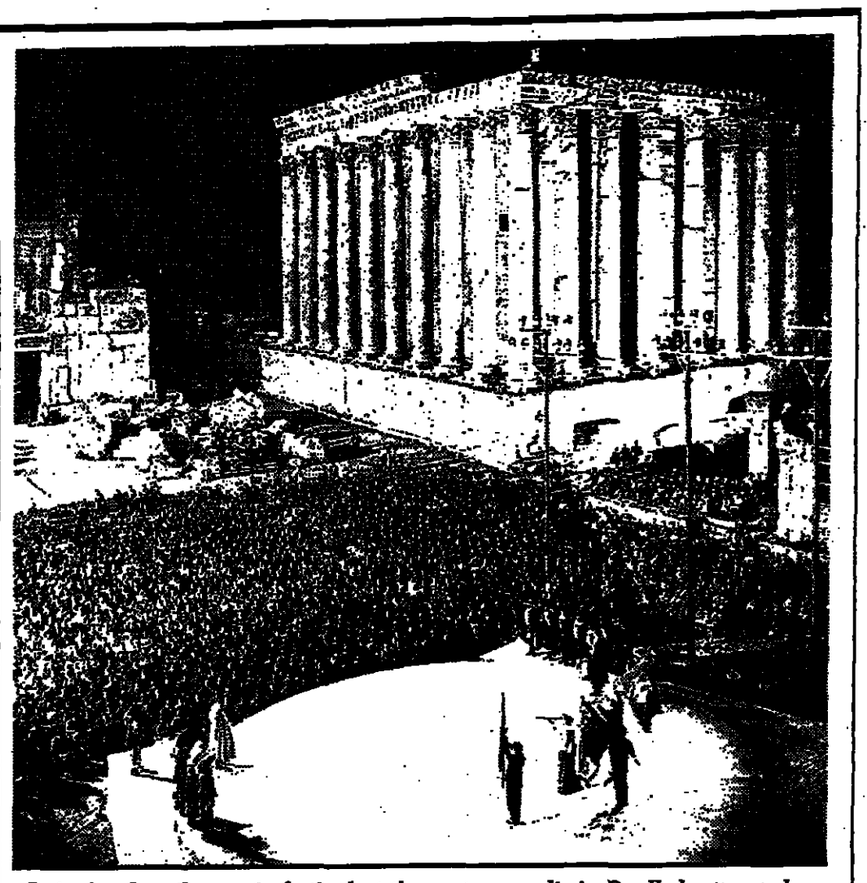
Slowly, busload by busload, the visitors to Baalbek have begun to return in the last two years — French, Germans, Britons mostly — to marvel at the majestic ruins that were rarely visited by tourists for more than two decades.

"Back in England, everyone wanted to know whether I was packing a flak jacket and had I been in touch with Terry Waite," Tony Carter, a British tourist, said in a reference to the representative of the Anglican Church who tried to negotiate with hostage-takers and was taken hostage himself. "But I must say that I haven't felt a moment of concern."

AGAINST a backdrop of snowcapped mountains and a sky of the purest blue, the vast acropolis is breathtaking, bigger than the one at Athens and grander than the colonnaded streets of Palmyra, in the Syrian desert. The remaining six golden-brown columns of the Temple of Jupiter soar nearly 70 feet, making them the tallest in the world, while the nearby Temple of Bacchus is the best-preserved in the Middle East.

In the fear and gloom of the 1975-90 war, even few Beirutis dared venture to Baalbek, a journey across the steep coastal mountains and through the lonely vineyards of the Bekaa that usually crossed several battle lines.

As part of an effort to lure them and others back, an English-language banner was hung several years ago across an entrance to the complex that read, somewhat disconcertingly, "Hezbollah Welcomes You." The banner has disappeared — a casualty of the elements, local officials say, but perhaps also part of the government's quest to encourage Hezbollah to maintain a lower profile.



In its heyday, the music festival at the vast acropolis in Baalbek attracted an array of artists, before falling victim to the 1975-90 civil war.

Still, on a recent weekday morning, the grounds echoed with the shrieks of 450 visiting fourth- and fifth-graders and the murmurs of scores more foreign visitors, and the signs of a new hospitality were much in evidence.

"There was nobody six years ago," said Ihab Raad, supervisor of the jasmine-covered Palmyra Hotel, a once-grand structure that in its 120 years has housed the queen of Abyssinia and Charles de Gaulle but where peeling paint and faded, sagging furniture now bear testament to harder times. "At least tonight I can say that we will have about 25 guests."

For now, organizers of the revived Baalbek Festival concede that their ambitions remain relatively modest. While the last festival, in 1974, ran for six weeks and included a full menu of theater, ballet, opera and jazz, the pageant being planned for this summer is to last just seven days. Its highlight is expected to be the one-night performance on July 30 by Mr. Rostropovich, who organizers said had inquired repeatedly over the years about returning to Baalbek, where he last performed in 1969.

May Carlos Arida, a Lebanese who remained president of the festival committee throughout the 23-year lull, described that performance, to be backed by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and set beneath the floodlighted columns of the two great Roman temples, as a first step in regaining past glory.

"The Lebanese public was spoiled by the festival before the war," she said, "and we hope to spoil them again."

Yeltsin Calls NATO Deal 98% Ready

'Acute Issue' Nearing Resolution, He Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday that a treaty on Russia's relations with NATO was "about 98 percent" ready and that he might join talks in Moscow next week to try to finalize the deal.

Mr. Yeltsin, who opposes NATO's plans to admit former Soviet allies, admitted that talks with the Western organization had been tough.

"There has probably not been such an acute issue between Russia and the U.S.A. and NATO since the Cuban crisis," he said, referring to the standoff in 1962 over Soviet missile bases in the Caribbean.

Moscow, painfully aware that NATO will not drop expansion plans because of its objections, has concentrated on seeking a deal to limit changes in troop deployments in Europe and win a voice in NATO planning.

The alliance wants an agreement with Russia before its July 8-9 summit meeting in Madrid, where it plans to name its first new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are believed to be the leading candidates.

Negotiators have agreed to establish a council that will allow Moscow to have a direct voice — but not a vote — in decisions made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

But differences still remain on military aspects of the agreement, with NATO saying that while it has no plans to move nuclear weapons or combat troops to the territories of new members, it does not rule out such a move in the future.

NATO also declines to promise that it will not build military sites on those territories.

Mr. Yeltsin said that if Russian conditions are met, he will go to Paris on May 27 to sign an agreement with NATO — a document that many Russians feel would be only a fig leaf.

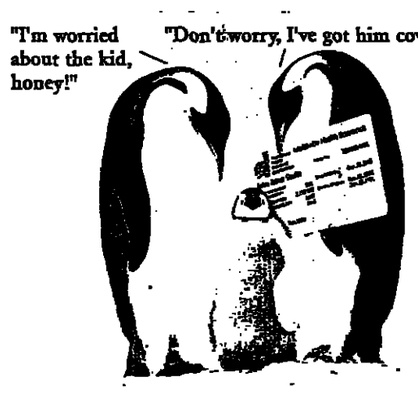
"I think it will be quite an empty document, meant for use inside Russia," to save the government's face, Mr. Yeltsin's popular former chief of national security, Alexander Lebed, has said. *(Reuters, AP)*

■ **Germany Offers Balts Hope**

The German defense minister, Volker Ruehe, said Thursday that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would be admitted to NATO at some point, even if not in the first wave of new members, Reuters reported from Copenhagen.

"I can only advise the Balts to cooperate closely so that they do not lose time," he said.

"One day they will be members of NATO, there is no doubt."



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09.05

Manuel Elizalde Jr., 60, Is Dead

Filipino Official Who Discovered an Allegedly Primitive Tribe

By Robert McG. Thomas Jr.
New York Times Service

Manuel Elizalde Jr., a wealthy Filipino official who caused a sensation in 1971 when he announced that he had discovered a tiny tribe of people who had lived for thousands of years in blissful Stone Age isolation, died Saturday at his home in Makati, a Manila suburb. He was 60.

His family gave no cause of death.

To the wave of social scientists who descended on Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, in the early 1970s, the 24 people Mr. Elizalde said he had found there seemed too good to be true.

Calling themselves Tasadays, after their sacred mountain, they were hunter-gatherers who never ventured far from their cave dwellings and had assumed they were the only people in the world.

Some scientists were suspicious from the beginning. For one thing, Mr. Elizalde was something of an iconoclast. A Harvard-educated scion of one of the wealthiest Philippine families, he gave up his hard-drinking playboy ways to champion beleaguered minorities, first as a private citizen and later as a member of President Ferdinand Marcos's cabinet.

Some anthropologists had called the Tasaday story implausible. Among other things, they pointed out, the tribe's caves lacked the trash heaps that would have been expected of peoples living there for centuries.

Mr. Elizalde, who had been forced to leave the Philippines in 1983 after a falling out with Imelda Marcos, the president's wife, settled on a coffee plantation in Costa Rica with more than a dozen young Filipino girls. The Costa Rican government expelled him in 1986, citing scandalous reports of goings-on inside his heavily-guarded compound.

He returned to the Philippines in 1988, helped manage his family's extensive business interests, and tried unsuccessfully to rekindle his political career. A 1993 nomination to be ambassador to Mexico was withdrawn after it created a political furor over Mr. Elizalde's ties to the Marcos administration and his role in what was then widely perceived as the Tasaday hoax.

The debate over the Tasadays' origins still rages. For all the reports that they were paid to fake the degree of their primitive status, some social scientists still say they believe the Tasadays had lived for a few centuries in complete isolation.

Sydney Freedberg, 82, Art Historian

New York Times Service

Sydney Freedberg, 82, an art historian who taught for nearly three decades at Harvard and was chief curator of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, died Tuesday at his home in Washington.

Mr. Freedberg, who specialized in the art of the Italian High Renaissance, is probably best known for his survey titled "Painting in Italy: 1500-1600." He also served as an adviser at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Receiving the National Medal of Arts in 1988, he remains the only art historian to have been so honored.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Hong Kong Carrier Eases Way to Australia

HONG KONG (AP) — Many travelers flying to Australia on the Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific can now get visas electronically when they book their flight, the carrier announced Thursday.

The airline said the program will apply to citizens of all European Union countries except France, Spain and Portugal, and to those of Brunei, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Norway, Singapore, South Korea and the United States.

Luxor Temple Reopens

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has reopened one of its most famous archaeological sites — the Temple of Luxor — after renovations that involved dismantling and reassembling columns that are 3,500 years old.

The temple housed the court of King Amenhotep III, who ruled from 1417 to 1379 B.C. The court, considered the glory of the Nile River temple, is made up of 46 columns, each 43 feet (13 meters) high with crowns sculpted like papyrus buds.

A new highway patrol will police Greece's main roads, and truck traffic may be banned on weekends, the government said, after 67 people were killed and 749 were injured in 475 road accidents during the Orthodox Easter holiday weekend. *(AP)*

Eight thousand guests were on hand Thursday to help open one of the world's biggest casinos, a 500,000-square-meter gaming and entertainment complex on the banks of the Yarra river in Melbourne. *(AFP)*

Russian Nationalist Hurts 2 Journalists

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the extreme nationalist leader, attacked two television journalists Thursday after they filmed him being denied entry to a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Red Square.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, who is known for sometimes violent behavior, erupted when presidential guards barred him from the memorial just outside the Kremlin as President Boris Yeltsin was laying a wreath there. Apparently, the nationalist leader was late for the ceremony.

Seeing that a Moscow Television Channel correspondent tried to film the incident, Mr. Zhirinovsky attacked the woman, grabbed her microphone, threw it on the ground and twisted her hand.

He then pushed the correspondent, Julia Olshanskaya, into his car, where his guards tried to seize her documents.

A cameraman for another channel, Valeri Ivanov, tried to film the violence and was pushed away and bruised by Mr. Zhirinovsky and his guards.

A German Ex-Defense Minister Dies

Reuters

AACHEN, Germany — Kai-Uwe von Hassel, 84, a former West German defense minister and one-time Bundestag president, collapsed and died at a political prize ceremony Thursday.

A spokeswoman for Aachen city authorities said Mr. von Hassel collapsed shortly after entering the town hall to attend a ceremony in which President Roman Herzog of Germany was to be awarded the Charlemagne prize.

Mr. von Hassel was a member of the Christian Democrats.

India Documents Hazardous Skies

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Ten near-collisions between aircraft have been reported in Indian skies since November, when two passenger jets collided and killed 349 people, the civil aviation minister said Thursday.

One of the 10 occurred just four days after the collision near New Delhi between jetliners of Saudi Arabia Airlines and Kazakstan Airlines, the minister, Chand Mahal Ibrahim, said in Parliament.

The latest incident occurred this month. In the others, two collisions were averted in April and six in January, the Press Trust of India quoted Mr. Ibrahim as saying. He did not give details or say what action the government had taken.

Mr. Ibrahim's statement came as a federal judge investigating the Nov. 12 crash heard complaints from lawyers for the two airlines involved about the safety equipment at New Delhi's airport.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Algarve	19/66	12/53 pc	21/70	12/53 pc
Amsterdam	13/55	6/43 pc	16/61	5/41 sh
Ankara	28/79	9/48 pc	27/80	9/48 pc
Athens	23/73	13/55 s	22/71	14/57 s
Barcelona	20/68	13/55 pc	22/71	13/55 c
Belgrade	19/66	7/44 pc	23/73	10/50 pc
Berlin	17/62	8/46 pc	15/59	8/46 r
Brussels	12/53	7/44 r	18/61	6/43 c
Budapest	16/61	10/50 pc	19/66	8/46 pc
Copenhagen	8/46	4/39 r	13/55	6/43 pc
Costa Del Sol	22/71	12/53 s	23/73	13/55 pc
Dublin	10/50	6/43 r	11/52	4/39 r
Edinburgh	12/53	6/43 sh	11/52	4/39 r
Florence	19/66	9/48 c	19/66	8/46 c
Frankfurt	16/61	8/46 pc	15/59	6/43 sh
Geneva	12/53	5/41 r	16/61	9/48 sh
Helsinki	15/59	12/53 r	13/55	2/35 c
Istanbul	28/79	13/53 s	23/73	13/55 s
Kiev	23/73	9/48 c	19/66	8/46 pc
Las Palmas	25/77	18/64 s	22/71	17/62 s
Lisbon	17/62	12/53 pc	17/62	12/53 c
London	13/55	7/44 sh	13/55	6/43 sh
Madrid	21/70	7/44 pc	22/71	8/46 pc
Mallorca	18/64	13/55 pc	21/70	13/55 c
Milan	17/62	8/46 r	18/64	11/52 r
Moscow	15/59	14/57 c	18/64	9/48 r
Munich	13/55	4/39 sh	16/61	7/44 c
Nice	18/64	12/53 pc	17/62	12/53 sh
Oslo	10/50	8/46 r	12/53	4/39 r
Paris	13/55	6/43 sh	15/61	7/44 c
Prague	14/57	4/39 pc	18/61	6/43 c
Reykjavik	7/44	3/37 sh	8/46	4/39 c
Riga	16/61	8/46 r	13/55	6/43 sh
Rome	17/62	7/44 s	19/66	9/48 pc
St. Petersburg	15/61	12/55 pc	15/61	7/44 r
Stockholm	10/50	7/44 r	10/50	1/34 c
Strasbourg	13/55	7/44 r	17/62	8/46 c
Tallinn	18/61	12/53 r	13/55	3/37 c
Tbilisi	22/71	12/53 c	25/77	12/53 pc
Venice	16/61	10/50 sh	18/64	11/52 sh
Vienna	15/61	9/48 pc	18/68	10/50 pc
Warsaw	13/55	5/41 r	17/62	8/43 pc
Zurich	11/52	5/41 r	16/61	8/46 c

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	29/84	14/57 s	29/84	18/61 s
Beirut	25/79	17/62 s	27/80	18/64 s
Cairo	34/93	14/57 s	34/93	16/61 s
Damascus	30/86	11/52 s	32/90	13/55 s
Jerusalem	27/80	11/52 s	28/82	12/53 s
Luxor	41/106	16/61 s	42/107	18/64 s
Riyadh	33/91	16/61 s	37/99	18/64 s

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

North America
Philadelphia and New York will be windy and cool over the weekend, but sunny and warmer Monday. Thunderstorms will erupt from the central Rockies into the northern Plains, while the Southwest will be hot and dry. There may be soaking rains through the Rio Grand Valley in Texas.

Europe
Cool and windy with showers across much of northern Europe from England to northern Germany and across Scandinavia. Scotland, Norway and Sweden will have steadier rains. Sunny and nice over southern Spain and most of Italy. Sunny, warm weather will reach from Turkey to Belarus.

Asia
Soaking rains will continue across interior southeastern China and northern Myanmar. Gusty thunderstorms will end the hot, dry spell over western China, but Beijing and the northeast will be getting warmer. Hot and dry across most of India with a few showers and thunderstorms in the south.

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Anchorage	13/55	3/37 pc	12/53	3/37 c
Atlanta	23/73	9/48 r	21/70	9/48 pc
Boston	12/53	8/46 r	13/55	5/41 sh
Chicago	14/57	2/36 sh	12/53	3/37 pc
Dallas	23/73	11/52 c	23/73	13/55 pc
Denver	21/70	7/44 s	22/71	7/44 pc
Detroit	14/57	3/37 sh	12/53	3/37 pc
Honolulu	28/82	19/66 s	28/84	21/70 pc
Houston	22/71	14/57 c	23/73	14/57 c
Los Angeles	29/79	13/55 s	28/82	14/57 pc
Miami	31/88	22/71 s	29/84	21/70 pc
Minneapolis	14/57	3/37 s	17/62	8/43 pc
Montreal	11/52	3/37 r	12/53	1/34 sh
Nassau	28/82	20/68 s	29/84	21/70 pc
New York	16/64	9/48 r	14/57	7/44 pc
Orlando	32/89	20/68 s	28/82	17/62 pc
Phoenix	36/97	20/68 s	34/93	19/66 pc
San Fran.	21/70	11/52 s	22/71	12/53 pc
Seattle	18/64	7/44 pc	19/66	8/48 pc
Toronto	7/44	-3/27 r	7/44	-3/27 pc
Vancouver	17/62	8/43 pc	15/59	8/46 pc
Washington	21/70	14/57 r	18/64	7/44 pc

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Almaty	14/57	8/46 sh	21/70	7/44 pc
Bali	32/89	23/73 r	32/89	23/73 pc
Bangkok	33/91	26/77 r	33/91	24/75 pc
Beijing	33/91	19/66 s	35/95	19/66 pc
Bombay	31/88	23/73 s	31/88	23/73 pc
Calcutta	35/95	23/73 s	36/97	24/75 pc
Chiang Mai	34/93	24/75 r	33/91	22/71 pc
Colombo	30/86	24/75 pc	30/86	24/75 pc
Hanoi	30/86	24/75 r	29/84	23/73 sh
Ho Chi Minh	34/93	24/75 c	33/91	25/77 pc
Hong Kong	27/80	22/71 s	28/82	22/71 pc
Islamabad	33/91	16/61 s	34/93	19/64 s
Jakarta	31/88	24/75 pc	31/88	24/75 pc
Karachi	36/97	22/71 s	36/97	22/71 s
K. Lumpur	32/89	23/73 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
K. Kinabalu	31/88	22/71 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
Manila	33/91	21/70 s	33/91	22/71 pc
New Delhi	41/105	21/70 s	41/105	22/71 s
Phnom Penh	33/91	23/73 sh	33/91	24/75 c
Phuket	33/91	25/77 r	33/91	24/75 pc
Rangoon	34/93	26/78 r	33/91	24/75 pc
Seoul	22/71	8/48 s	22/71	10/50 s
Shanghai	21/70	11/52 s	22/71	19/66 pc
Singapore	32/89	22/71 pc	32/89	23/71 pc
Taipei	23/73	19/66 r	27/80	22/71 c
Tokyo	18/64	12/53 pc	22/71	15/61 s
Vientiane	29/84	23/73 r	29/84	24/75 sh

Africa

Algiers	22/71	11/52 pc	27/80	14/57 pc
Cape Town	24/75	11/52 s	24/75	12/53 s
Casablanca	19/66	10/50 s	20/68	13/55 s
Harare	31/88	11/52 s	32/89	12/53 s
Lagos	31/88	23/73 pc	30/86	23/73 sh
Nairobi	27/80	13/55 pc	27/80	14/57 c
Tunis	21/70	10/50 s	25/77	14/57 pc

Latin America

Buenos Aires	21/73	15/59 pc	23/73	14/57 pc
Caracas	29/84	24/75 pc	30/86	24/75 pc
Lima	25/77	17/62 pc	24/75	18/64 c
Mexico City	27/80	11/52 c	26/77	11/52 pc
Rio deJaneiro	23/73	15/61 pc	23/73	17/62 pc
Santiago	28/79	10/50 pc	23/73	7/44 c

Oceania

Auckland	17/62	11/52 pc	17/62	12/53 pc
Sydney	17/62	13/55 r	16/61	14/57 sh

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, I-ice. W-Weather All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

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Yeltsin Calls NATO Deal 98% Ready

'Acute Issue' Nearing Resolution, He Says

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday that a treaty on Russia's relations with NATO is "about 98 percent" ready and he might join talks in Moscow next week to try to finalize the deal.

Mr. Yeltsin, who opposes NATO plans to admit former Soviet allies, admitted that talks with the Western organization had been tough.

"There has probably not been an acute issue between Russia and U.S.A. and NATO since the Cuban crisis," he said, referring to the standoff in 1962 over Soviet missile bases in the Caribbean.

Moscow, painfully aware that NATO will not drop expansion plans because of its objections, has concentrated on seeking a deal to limit changes in NATO deployments in Europe and wording in NATO planning.

The alliance wants an agreement with Russia before its July 8-9 summit meeting in Madrid, where it plans to invite first new members from Central Eastern Europe. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are believed to be the leading candidates.

Negotiators have agreed to establish a joint council that will allow Moscow to have a direct voice — but not a veto — in decisions made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

But differences still remain over military aspects of the agreement. NATO says that while it has no plans to move nuclear weapons or extra troops to the territories of new members, it does not rule out such a move in the future.

NATO also declines to promise that it will not build military sites on new territories.

Mr. Yeltsin said that if Russian objections are met, he will go to Paris on May 27 to sign a document between NATO and Russia. "I think it would be only right for me to be present at the signing of such a document," meant for the inside left of Yeltsin's political front of the day, Reuters reported from Copenhagen.

"I can only advise my colleagues to cooperate closely with the alliance so you lose none," he said.

"One day they will be members of NATO, there is no doubt."

Germany Offers Baltic Hope

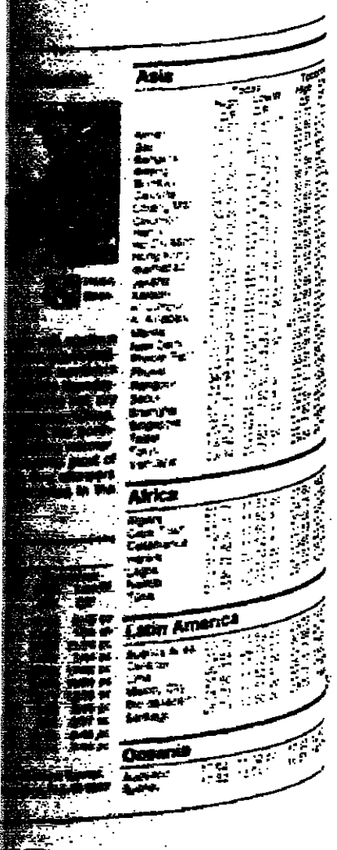
The German defense minister, Volker Rühe, said Thursday that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania could become members of NATO at some point in the future, Reuters reported from Copenhagen.

Russian Nationalist Hurts 2 Journalists

MOSCOW — Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the extreme nationalist politician, struck two television journalists after they filmed him at a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Red Square.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, who is known sometimes violent behavior, then presidential guards from the memorial complex as the ex-President Boris Yeltsin was laying a wreath there. Apparently, the ultranationalist leader was late for the ceremony.

Seeing that a Moscow Television Channel correspondent had tried to film the incident, Mr. Zhirinovsky attacked the woman, grabbed her microphone and threw it on the ground and then pushed the correspondent. He then pushed the cameraman, Vitaly Ivanov, who tried to film the incident. Mr. Zhirinovsky's guards pushed Ivanov and his colleagues and Mr. Zhirinovsky and his guards.



Clinton Gets a Dose Of 2 Distinct Mexicos

NAFTA Helps Some, but Ignores Others

By Molly Moore and Peter Baker
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — In the morning, President Bill Clinton stood in a cavernous auditorium before thousands of business owners and government officials, hailing the economic wonders wrought by the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1993.

In the afternoon, he took a helicopter for 75 miles (120 kilometers) to the colonial town of Tlaxcala, where he was greeted by thousands of peasant farmers who make an average of $3.50 a day — when they can find work — and who were lured to a colorful rally by free food, sweaters and transportation.

"There's no work in my town," said Virginio Maldonado Sanchez, a 60-year-old farm laborer who rode to Tlaxcala on a government bus for an hour. "On days when I can find work, we eat. On days I don't have work, we barely eat."

Mr. Clinton's day of contrasts underscored the economics and the politics of NAFTA at a time when the president is pressing to extend lower trade barriers throughout Latin America.

As indicated by statistics rattled off in Mr. Clinton's keynote address at the National Auditorium in Mexico City alongside President Ernesto Zedillo, it is not hard to find Mexicans who have benefited from the trade agreement.

But as his visit to Tlaxcala demonstrated only a few hours later, it also is easy to find those who have not.

Those realities are especially important because they will help define the debate as the United States and its neighbors try to enhance their economic relationships. Expanded free trade is a central mission of Mr. Clinton's first official trip to Latin America.

In the Mexico born of NAFTA, Mr. Clinton said, electronics workers have new jobs and better pensions, while hundreds of thousands of women now get mammograms because of American-made medical equipment.

"Many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories should NAFTA prevail," Mr. Clinton said in the morning speech. "Well, they were wrong. NAFTA is working — working for you and working for the American people."

But along the newly repaired streets of Tlaxcala, the peasants bused to the outdoor event described a different Mexico. They live in a state where one-quarter of all families live on $1,042 a year, at most; where one-fourth of the population lives in one-room houses, and where nearly one-fourth of all homes have no toilets. And this is one of Mexico's more economically sound states.

"I really hope he understands the real situation," said Claudia, a government secretary who was ordered to attend Mr. Clinton's speech in Mexico City and did not want to give her last name for fear of reprisals from the authorities.

"The problem is," she added, "he doesn't see it because he never sees the poor people. He never saw that because the Mexican police don't let him see them."

The effects of NAFTA are hard to pinpoint, in part because it took effect at the same time the Mexican peso crisis erupted. But some things are clear: Trade between the two countries has risen nearly 60 percent, to $130 billion last year, since the agreement was signed.

That made Mexico the third-largest U.S. trading partner and put it fast on the heels of Japan, the No. 2. But the slight trade surplus the United States enjoyed with Mexico before NAFTA has turned into a $16 billion deficit.

Tlaxcala provided a carefully orchestrated backdrop for Mr. Clinton's only encounter with everyday Mexicans, and, in his speech, he stressed that the partnership between the two countries "must be pursued in a genuine spirit of respect, equality and dignity."

But the state's governor — Jose Antonio Alvarez Lima, a member of Mr. Zedillo's governing party — struck at issues that anger many Mexicans.

He urged Mr. Clinton to help forge a U.S.-Mexican relationship as "between equals" and voiced "concern for the human rights of our fellow Mexican citizens in the United States." The statement drew the only spontaneous applause of the rally.

Luigi Lemoni/The Associated Press

President and Mrs. Clinton trying on masks in the market at Tlaxcala.

Central America Should Share In 'Prosperity,' President Says

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — President Bill Clinton opened a summit meeting Thursday with Central American leaders, celebrating an era of peace after decades of civil wars and promising that they would be "not just neighbors but real partners" with the United States.

"We are here to help our economies grow and to grow closer by opening our markets, protecting our workers and sharing more fairly the benefits of prosperity," Mr. Clinton said from a stage in front of the National Theater.

The meeting was expected to produce several modest trade deals and an open-skies accord that should make flying here easier and cheaper. And the summit meeting's trade declaration would promote U.S. tariff reductions for more Central American goods, administration officials said.

The focus on trade was underscored by President Jose Figueres of Costa Rican, who expressed Central American concerns of "being left behind by the vehicle of progress."

He gently prodded Mr. Clinton to push ahead with his stalled promise to create a free-trade zone in the Americas by 2005. Mr. Figueres said the goal must be pursued "without hurry but also without pause."

Mr. Clinton told the leaders, who have complained of being ignored by the United States: "We know that we must not be just neighbors, but real partners, working together in a sprit of friendship, equality and mutual respect."

With Guatemala's 1996 peace treaty, the entire region is at peace for the first time in a generation. When President George Bush visited here eight years ago, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala were fighting civil wars.

A Creepy Reason for Asthma Attacks

By Warren E. Leary
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Researchers say a national study conclusively shows that an allergic reaction to cockroaches is a major cause of high levels of asthma seen in children in inner-city neighborhoods.

A five-year federally financed study conducted at eight medical centers in seven cities concluded, as experts had long suspected, that children are at high risk of asthma attacks if they are allergic to cockroaches and if their homes contain relatively large amounts of the insects' body parts and droppings.

These attacks result in uncommonly high rates of emergency-room visits, hospitalizations, periods of breathing difficulty, missed school days and sleep-deprived nights, the study said.

"Our findings provide evidence that exposure to cockroach allergen has an important role in causing morbidity due to asthma among inner-city children," the researchers wrote in a report published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine. "These results suggest that reducing exposure to cockroach allergen should be an important component of plans for the management of asthma."

Dr. David Rosenstreich, an allergy specialist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and the senior investigator in the study, said researchers had known for decades that many asthmatics in cities were allergic to cockroaches.

"But this is the first study that systematically shows that if a person is allergic and is exposed to high levels of the cockroach allergen, the two risk factors come together to increase major asthmatic episodes," he said. "It proves what we suspected was really true."

The next step, he said, is to see whether something can be done to reduce exposure to cockroach allergens, which are proteins found in the insects' saliva, feces and remains.

Sexual-Abstinence Law Stymies States

By Tamar Lewin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A little-noticed provision in the revision of welfare laws passed last year that sets aside $250 million to teach children about sexual abstinence has touched off a national debate as states try to decide how to use the money or even whether to take it.

To get the money, local governments must agree to teach, among other things, that sex outside of marriage "is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects." To qualify, the programs must teach the virtues of abstinence and not the use of condoms or other contraceptives.

With only two months left to apply for the money, states are trying to figure out how to use it without undermining their efforts to teach safe sex. Many are wondering whether it is worth taking the money at all, as they have to put up $3 of their own money for every $4 of federal help they receive.

"The limits on what you can say are so restrictive that we decided we could not use the money for classroom programs or anywhere else where there was face-to-face contact," Dora Mills, director of Maine's health department, said. "Youths might raise issues you couldn't address under the law."

In Connecticut, Governor John Rowland, a Republican, did not include any of the money in his budget. State Representative Mary Mushinsky, a Democrat who last year successfully pushed to add money for abstinence education to the state budget, said she had discussed the aid but had decided that "we ought not to pursue it if handcuffs come with the bill."

To be eligible for the money, the law says, a program's "exclusive purpose" must be to teach the "social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity." Such programs, it says, must teach "abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children."

Some health officials said such language might make it difficult to respond honestly to all the questions that arose in a diverse classroom, where some students may be sexually active, some may be homosexual and some may have unwed parents. In several states, new coalitions of social-service organizations are lobbying to reject such language.

"We have come out flat-foot and four-square: This money's bad, and don't take it," said Joyce Walker-Tyson, deputy executive director at Advocates for Youth, a Washington group helping to coordinate the lobbying efforts.

She added: "Teen sexual activity has gone down slightly, and use of contraceptives has gone up. Why? Because kids make good decisions if they get good information."

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POLITICAL NOTES

Disaster Relief Held Up in Senate

WASHINGTON — The Senate has voted to make it easier to build roads through federal lands and agreed to delay cutoff of some welfare benefits to legal immigrants as it struggled to resolve disputes holding up an "emergency" disaster-relief bill.

The bill would provide $5.5 billion in aid to victims of floods and other disasters in 33 states and $1.8 billion for peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and the Middle East.

The main dispute centers on a Republican proposal to forestall government shutdowns by funding agencies at reduced rates when spending bills have not been enacted by the start of a new fiscal year. Democrats describe the proposal as a backdoor ploy to slash spending, and President Bill Clinton has threatened to veto the bill.

The debate over disaster relief threatened to turn into a disaster for environmentalists. Conservation groups were stung by the Senate vote on the road-building measure, which increases states' authority to build highways in national parks and wilderness areas. Environmentalists also feared a defeat in the House, which debated a proposal to grant broad exemptions from the Endangered Species Act for dams and other water-control projects.

Opponents of the House bill said it would have weakened protections for rare animals. But Republican leaders withdrew the bill after the House narrowly approved an amendment that limited its impact to emergency situations. *(WP)*

Crackdown Is Set On Teenage Crime

WASHINGTON — Convinced that a surge in the teenage population will translate into surging crime rates over the next few years, President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans are proposing get-tough measures that would radically change the way the nation's criminal justice system treats young offenders.

Under Republican-sponsored legislation that the House began considering Thursday, defendants as young as 13 could be prosecuted in adult courts for violent crimes and serious drug offenses. Juvenile criminal records would also become detailed, permanent and public under the proposed law, removing the secrecy provisions that have traditionally guarded criminal proceedings involving minors. *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

Senator Jesse Helms, the conservative chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee who has attended countless classified Pentagon briefings, on why he is trying to overhaul the system for creating and declassifying official secrets: "We were informed in great detail of everything that was in The New York Times and The Washington Post that morning. We couldn't talk about it — because it was classified." *(NYT)*

Away From Politics

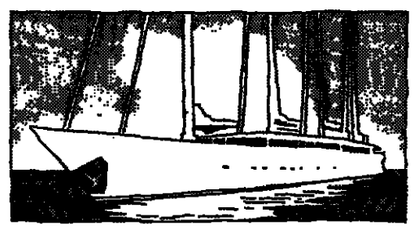
• **A 22-year-old man who was convicted of murder and asked a court to schedule his execution was killed by injection in McAlester, Oklahoma. Scott Dawn Carpenter became the youngest person to be put to death in the state since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976.** *(AP)*

• **Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, and IBM's Deep Blue computer, remained tied at two points each after playing to a draw in the fourth game of their six-game series. Mr. Kasparov offered the draw after the computer made its 56th move and the machine immediately accepted.** *(AP)*

• **More than four years after residents of the District of Columbia overwhelmingly rejected a referendum that would have established the death penalty, a majority now favors capital punishment for those who kill police officers, according to a Washington Post poll.** *(WP)*

• **Thieves who stole more than $13 million worth of designer clothes, guns and cars at Kennedy Airport made a fatal mistake: They tried to pass the goods to a government sting operation. The undercover operation resulted in charges against 81 people, including employees of airlines and shippers.** *(AP)*

Where could you lay your hands on a 74m sailing ship in Madrid?



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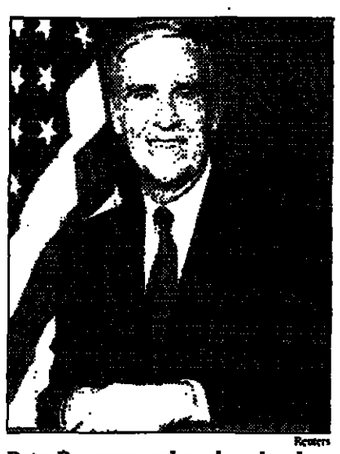
U.S. Envoy's 2d Vietnam Landing

A Former POW Returns as Ambassador As Nations Seek to Overcome Suspicions



Reuters

Pete Peterson, who played a key role in restoring U.S.-Vietnam ties.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HANOI — A former American pilot who was shot down over Vietnam's Red River delta in 1966 and held for years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison arrives here Friday as the first U.S. ambassador to Vietnam since the war ended more than 22 years ago.

Pete Peterson, whose posting was delayed by domestic politics and legal wrangling, is to land at Noi Bai Airport.

But while the event may be recorded as a milestone in relations between the former foes, the symbolism of his arrival is likely to go largely unnoticed outside government, business and media circles.

More than half of the 77 million Vietnamese are too young to have any memory of the war that tore their country apart.

Even the villagers who caught Mr. Peterson when his parachute landed him in a mango tree in 1966 expressed surprise at the fuss over his return.

"The war is ended," Nguyen Dang Sinh, 70, said. "The past is closed. I don't have much to say."

Since ties between the United States and Vietnam were normalized in July 1995, progress in relations has been painstakingly slow. Diplomats on both sides concede that their biggest tasks are restoring confidence and overcoming suspicions.

"Peterson's arrival will definitely help matters," the Vietnamese ambassador to Washington, Le Van Bang, said this week as he prepared to depart to begin his assignment. "It's a very good thing."

Mr. Peterson is seen by many here as the ideal man to help Washington and Hanoi overcome their differences over the war.

"With his background, he will have a forum whenever he chooses to speak either to the Americans or Vietnamese," said Sesto Vecchi, an American lawyer who practiced in Saigon during the war and returned to the city, renamed Ho Chi Minh City, in 1994.

But some in Washington refuse to forget the war in which 3 million Vietnamese and nearly 58,000 Americans were killed. The bitterness caused the wrangling in Washington over the appointment of an ambassador.

Mr. Peterson played a key role in restoring diplomatic ties with Hanoi in 1995, after Washington lifted an economic embargo on Vietnam the previous year.

His priority is furthering the efforts to account for the 2,124 Americans still listed as missing-in-action in Indochina from the war, 1,585 of them in Vietnam. The remains of downed planes and helicopters have been largely destroyed by time and the tropical environment. Nonetheless, the search goes on.

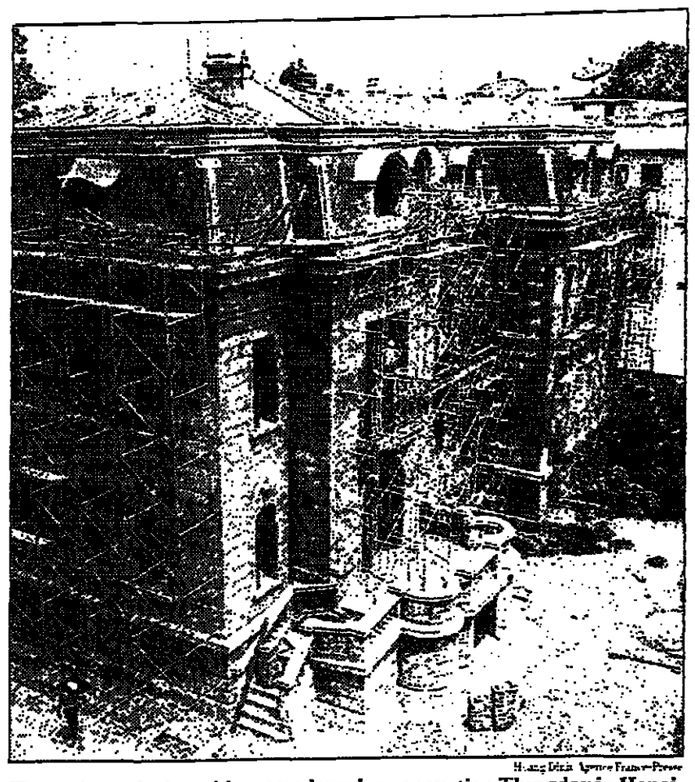
But Mr. Peterson is also expected to oversee new achievements in relations, particularly in economics and trade.

Last month, the two countries signed a copyright accord, a minor step toward the goal of achieving a full-trade agreement, which would lead to most-favored-nation trading status for Hanoi.

But Mr. Peterson's arrival comes at a time of what some analysts say are increasing signs of a hands-on approach by Washington toward Asia.

Last month, the United States announced sanctions against Burma. On Tuesday, Rear Admiral Michael Haskins, commander of the U.S. Navy in Japan, told a defense conference in Singapore that one of the roles of the United States was to "deter the rise of any hegemonistic power or coalition" in the region.

Mr. Peterson is expected to reside temporarily in the former home of the U.S. chargé d'affaires, Desaix Anderson, who left Hanoi this week. He will move into a French colonial villa in the heart of the city when renovation work is completed. *(Reuters, AFP)*



Hoang Dinh Nam/Agence France-Presse

The ambassador's residence undergoing renovation Thursday in Hanoi.

6 Die in Pakistan As Jet Releases Fiery Fuel Tanks

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Six persons, including a family of five, were killed Thursday when the pilot of a Pakistani Air Force jet dropped his burning auxiliary fuel tanks over a congested neighborhood in Karachi.

Nine other persons were rushed to a hospital in Karachi with serious burn injuries.

The Mirage jet was on a routine flight when both of its auxiliary fuel tanks caught fire, said a wing commander, Aftab Safdar.

"In a bid to prevent the aircraft from crashing over a populated area, which would have resulted in a major catastrophe, the pilot had to jettison the tanks," an air force statement said.

Four small apartment buildings were set afire before one burning tank landed on a two-story apartment building. The other landed in an empty lot next door.

Of the dead, the youngest victim was 5 years old, said his mother, Mubina Yaseen.

The jet, acquired 15 years ago, was returning to the Masroor air base outside Karachi when the accident occurred. It landed safely.

Each external fuel tank on a Mirage jet usually carries 260 gallons (980 liters) of jet fuel.

Since the plane had been in the air for an hour, it was not known how much fuel was still in the tanks, Wing Commander Safdar said.

Afghan Warlord Profits by Defiance

Agence France-Presse

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan — This northern Afghan capital is proving a potent symbol of defiance for the Islamic purists of the Taleban movement.

The strategic city is controlled by Abdul Rashid Dustam, a former general under the Communist regime, whose large northern fiefdom has so far eluded capture by his southern ultra-fundamentalist Islamic rivals.

But despite the relative calm here, General Dustam's forces — in league with soldiers of the former government — are fighting a bloody war against the Taleban, for what officials say is more than just land-grabbing.

"The only power in Afghanistan moving in parallel with the evolution of the world is the northern alliance," General Dustam's spokesman, Mohammed Yousif, said in an interview.

He said General Dustam's fiefdom was the last refuge for intellectual Afghans, hundreds of whom fled here from Kabul when the capital was seized by the Taleban in September last year.

"The Taleban are returning to the Middle Ages," Mr. Yousif said, referring to the militia's strict imposition of Islamic law in the two-thirds of Afghanistan under its control.

Alcohol is openly on sale here. Hindu actresses on movie fliers are "naked" by the standards of the Taleban, which has banned films, music and pictures of living creatures as part of its vision of a pure Islamic state.

Gambling in the pool halls would spark a Taleban crackdown, and imported beer and Russian vodka in the shops would meet a fate similar to Kabul's stocks — crushed under a tank late last year.

Earlier this year, residents of this stronghold were alarmed when the Taleban opened an offensive north of Kabul, but three months later the city appears to have regained its confidence.

General Dustam blew up the Salang highway, blocking direct access north from Kabul, and his Shiite Muslim allies have so far managed to block a Taleban attempt to bypass the crucial road link.

Holding off enemy forces in the northwest, and now sealed in his economically self-sufficient territory, General Dustam is shifting his anti-Taleban rhetoric to open hostility.

"We decided that if the Taleban insist on fighting, our strategy would change from defensive to offensive," Mr. Yousif said.

He said the alliance was planning to launch a coordinated attack against the Taleban later this year, to push the militia out of Kabul and "back to where they came from," the refugee camps of Pakistan.

That is unlikely. Not only is the Taleban a potent fighting force, but General Dustam has succeeded in establishing a lucrative fiefdom here. And whether he is ready to risk it all for a smashed Kabul remains to be seen.

Mazar-i-Sharif is thriving. Music stores blare popular songs from their doorways, and television and video movies are unrestricted. While the Taleban has banned women from work and education, women here go unfettered by the veil and can mix with men at offices and schools. General Dustam even runs an international airline.

And the city boasts more foreign diplomatic missions than Kabul; the Taleban has yet to recognized by a single nation as the government of Afghanistan.

Pyongyang's 'Robust' Military

U.S. Suspects Generals of Obstructing Peace Process

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO — The North Korean military seems to have gotten a stronger grip on the country, and this could explain why the Stalinist state is refusing to join Korean Peninsula peace talks, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Army officers seem to be "more influential now," said the official, speaking a day after talks with counterparts from Japan and South Korean on the situation in the North.

"We know that they had a fairly robust winter training," more so than the previous one, the official said. "It suggests that for some reason they decided to return to what has been the normal level of spending those resources on military training." The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, named 123 generals in mid-April, a move seen as paving the way for him to formally take power.

But the U.S. official emphasized that the military's greater strength was only one theory and that the Clinton administration did not know the reason for North Korea's reluctance to join talks with South Korea in which the United States and China would take part. "It is not a transparent situation," he said. "Time is very much running out for North Korea."

He warned that the country was becoming "volatile because of the food situation." But he added that Washington remained ready to hold talks with Pyongyang's representatives and was "hopeful" that the North would eventually join peace talks.

North Korea held talks last month in New York with U.S. and South Korean officials on the proposal for peace talks, but the North refused to join. It is demanding greater international food aid before giving a firm answer.

Ryozo Kato, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia bureau; Yu Myung Hwang, head of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's North American bureau, and Charles Kartman, acting U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asia-Pacific affairs, took part in the meeting Wednesday in Tokyo.

They all agreed that the food crisis in North Korea was acute. But Japan reaffirmed its reservations about increasing humanitarian aid to the North, Japanese government sources said.

BRIEFLY

Tokyo Recognizes Indigenous People

TOKYO — Parliament enacted a law on Thursday that recognizes the country's Ainu minority as Japan's original inhabitants.

"For the first time, the Ainu people are recognized as our country's indigenous race under Japan's legal system," said Tatsuya Hori, governor of Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido.

The unanimous passage of the law by the lower house followed a precedent-setting court ruling in March favoring Ainu land rights and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's recognition of the Ainu as Japan's indigenous people. He was the first prime minister to take this step.

The United Nations recognized the Ainu as a native people in 1992, but they still face job discrimination in Japan. *(AP)*

Gandhi Gives Lift To Congress Party

NEW DELHI — Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, joined his Congress (I) Party on Thursday, giving a boost to the embattled organization.

"By becoming a primary member, she has joined hands with millions of Congress workers," the party's president, Sitaram Kesri, said at a news conference.

Since her husband's assassination in 1991, Mrs. Gandhi, 50, had spurned repeated offers to enter politics. But she enrolled in late March and her membership was finalized on Thursday, party officials said.

Mrs. Gandhi is seen as a galvanizing force in the Congress Party, which has been hit by a series of scandals. *(Reuters)*

Hong Kong Plans For Tiananmen

HONG KONG — Hong Kong activists who are planning protests in June to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 vowed on Thursday that the colony's handover to China would not stop the commemorations.

"We will still hold the gathering even if they ban it," Szeto Wah, a veteran protester, said at a news conference.

He said the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China planned to hold its traditional candlelight vigil on June 4 in memory of those who died when Chinese troops and tanks crushed the student-led movement around Tiananmen Square in Beijing eight years ago.

China is taking over Hong Kong on July 1. *(Reuters)*

3 Taiwan Ministers Suddenly Resign

TAIPEI — Three Taiwan ministers resigned on Thursday, increasing pressure on the government ahead of an expected cabinet reshuffle next week.

Ma Ying-jeou, minister without portfolio, Interior Minister Lin Feng-cheng, and Tjiu Mau-ying, chairman of Taiwan's Council of Agriculture, handed in their resignations to Prime Minister Lien Chan.

The resignations caught Mr. Lien's administration by surprise. Next week it is expected to announce a cabinet reshuffle in response to public anger over rising crime. *(Reuters)*

BOOKS

ONLY TWICE I'VE WISHED FOR HEAVEN

By Dawn Turner Trice. 304 pages. $23. Crown.

Reviewed by Jabari Asim

YOU could say Dawn Turner Trice's debut novel is about a hard-working Chicago family that learns that upward mobility is seldom achieved without paying some kind of emotional toll. Or you could say it's about systematic racism, class conflict and the death of innocence. Finally, you could say "Only Twice I've Wished for Heaven" tells the story of two beautiful little girls who want desperately to fly.

None of those descriptions does justice to Trice's story, which includes all of the above and much, much more. The novel revolves around three people: Johnie Louise Goodings, Tempestt Saville and Valerie Nicholae.

Their tale begins in 1975, when Tempestt and her parents move from a modest, comfortable bungalow on Chicago's South Side to Lakeland, an enclosed high-rise community built especially for the Windy City's burgeoning black middle class.

Lakeland has a full-time security force to guard its golf course and Olympic-size swimming pool. Newspaper reports extol Lakeland as an idyllic community, but Tempestt and her mother see the development as a gilded cage just spitting distance from rat-infested tenements and lacking the warmth and familiarity of their former home.

Eleven-year-old Tempestt longs for the days when her cabdriver father moonlighted as a neighborhood activist, distributing pamphlets and organizing meetings. In the evening he returned home to read to his daughter from Emerson, Du Bois, Merton and Tolstoy. But night school has transformed Thomas Saville from a cabdriver to a teacher, a by-the-bootstraps striver seemingly obsessed with "proper" behavior, textbook English and patent leather shoes.

Convinced she will never fit in at Lakeland Academy, where the robotic, snooty children are groomed from birth to attend "Morehouse, Spelman, Harvard or Yale," she befriends a fellow outcast: Valerie Nicholae, a moody, spirited girl who rarely attends school more than twice a week.

The girls' destinies become forever entwined with Johnie's when Tempestt wanders into O'Cala's Food and Drug, Johnie's hole-in-the-wall emporium located on the other side of the fence that protects Lakeland from the surrounding ghetto.

O'Cala's squats alongside 35th Street, a squalid, muddy rut of a road so forbidding that "even the city had wanted to forget it was there."

Having gained access to 35th through a half-hidden, little-used gate, Tempestt quickly becomes fascinated with the sordid scenes unfolding atop its grimy ground. A 59-year-old woman named Johnie takes an instant liking to Tempestt. Thoroughly knowledgeable of both the danger and allure of 35th Street, Johnie resolves to protect Tempestt from its sugar-tongued predators. "Me and the regulars would keep a watch over her. Because I wasn't gone let no somebody lay his hands on Child."

TRICE'S portrayals of Johnie and her "regulars" — a quartet of grumpy old men named Hump, Chitlin, Fat Daddy and Judd — are brilliantly drawn. Her scenes inside the tiny store are among the many that separate this urban fable from others and inspire adjectives such as "remarkable" and "first-rate."

Every detail Trice provides is a telling one, endowing her characters with attributes and idiosyncrasies that make them both credible and likable. The undersize Chitlin, for example, wears an outdated seersucker suit, constantly puffs on a huge cigar and, almost completely blind, fiddles with the knobs on his beloved old AM radio. The .22 he keeps concealed on his person "starts the day tucked into his pants," Jonetta reports, "but by late afternoon it done slid off his puny hip down to his boot." Each of these men has lived hard and fast, but their immoral days are long past. Now they are joined by a common sense of pride and an abiding love for Jonetta.

The object of their affections is a fearless, time-tested woman whose only child, a girl, died minutes after being born.

Tempestt's entrance into Johnie's life stirs old memories and maternal yearnings. It also triggers a series of events that could spell danger for Tempestt and Valerie, whose troubling behavior suggests the possibility of abuse.

Jonetta's premonitions are confirmed when Essie, her long-dead sister, visits her in a dream. "A storm is coming," she warns, "circling right around Valerie and that other little girl." To reveal more of the story would diminish its devastating climax, toward which the plot moves at an irresistible pace.

Often first novels are rough stones with just enough sparkling facets to indicate nascent talent. Trice's first effort, on the other hand, is a polished gem. Occasionally she takes on Lakeland's flawed, ambitious denizens with too broad a brush and too heavy a hammer, bludgeoning when a subtle jab would be more effective. Viewed as a whole, though, the work is a genuine delight. Trice is reportedly at work on a second novel. I hope she doesn't make us wait too long.

Jabari Asim is on the staff of The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

ONE of the rarest opening bids in bridge is four notrump, and when it does occur it can easily generate a misunderstanding. Half a century ago it was used to mean a very powerful balanced hand, with perhaps 28 high-card points. British players then introduced the idea that the bid should ask partner to show an ace: Five clubs denies an ace, and other bids show the ace of that suit. There are two modern interpretations involving the minor suits: Two very long minor suits, or one very long minor suit with slam interest.

Even expert partnerships are liable to forget, in the heat of the battle, on which of these interpretations they have agreed, perhaps years earlier. The diagramed deal caused great amusement at the 1995 Marlboro World Championships in Beijing. Except to East-West.

North and South were Daniela von Arnim and Sabine Auken, the anchor partnership of the German women's team, which won the gold medal. Auken decided that she wished to play seven hearts if her partner held the spade ace, and six hearts if she did not. Unfortunately, her partner had a different recollection of the partnership agreement. As far as she was concerned, the bid asked for a minor suit, and she dutifully bid five diamonds.

Auken now placed her partner with the diamond ace, a useless card, but bid six hearts anyway: there seemed a fair chance of losing just one spade trick.

Von Arnim now knew that something had gone wrong, and Auken reached the same conclusion when the spade ace was led and the dummy appeared.

But now the North-South confusion spread to West. What was the meaning of her partner's spade jack on the first trick? She decided to play the diamond ace, since a diamond loser in the South hand might disappear on dummy's spades. South happily claimed her slam, and East, who had liked the lead, was deflated.

NORTH (D)
♠ 10 8 6 4 3
♡ 8 3
◇ K J 7 4
♣ J 3

WEST
♠ A 2
♡ 5 4
◇ A 9 5 2
♣ 10 8 6 5 4

EAST
♠ J
♡ 7 6
◇ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ K Q 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 7 5
♡ A K Q J 10 9 2
◇ —
♣ A

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:

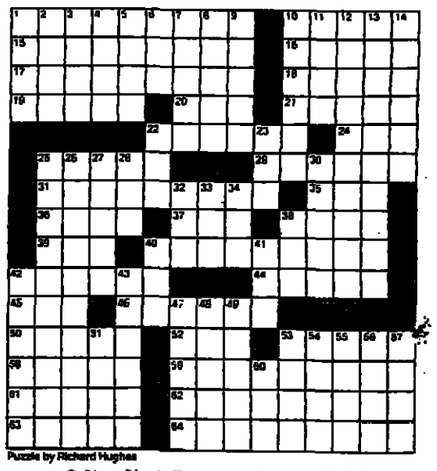
North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	4 N.T.	Pass
5 ◇	Pass	6 ♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the spade ace.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Lived it up
10 Wedge-shaped inserts
15 Too keen
16 Site of two of the Ancient Wonders
17 Ace
18 Slag
19 Put —— ease
20 Tore
21 Third rock from the sun
22 Toward the end
24 Rap's Dr. ——
25 Marching band instruments
29 Detects
31 Italian count^
35 Actress Balin
36 Commando's outing
37 He was Amin guy
38 Crate component
39 CNN parent co.
40 Partner
42 Spoiled rotten
44 Hungry
45 It's equal to 100 ergs per gram
46 Deeply personal
50 Ford's lolly?
52 First name in coaching
53 "—— Andy Warhol" (1996 movie)
58 Buddha's birthplace
59 Discordant
61 Herd
62 Mesmerized
63 Sandburg's "farewell-summer flower"
64 Called into question

DOWN
1 Jolly sound
2 Calling company?
3 Strike out
4 Field
5 "—— ever so humble . . ."
6 Airline to Chile
7 Site of the Temple of Hephaestus
8 Foreign assembly
9 Ontario's —— Canal
10 Certain home improvers
11 Ring dance
12 Excessive
13 Was unkind to
14 Casements
22 Shaq's alma mater
23 Really big shoe
25 Hudson's Bay Company, e.g.
26 Poorly situated
27 Impose
28 Roush of the Reds
30 Risotto alternative
32 It may block the Rhein
33 Fall sports stats
34 "Wild Orchid" locale, 1990
38 Fall from grace
40 Author Rand
41 Director's cry
42 Rhoda's sister
43 Rudder attachment
47 Frenzied
48 Northeast college town
49 Prince of Darkness
51 Sun shade
53 About
54 L.I.R.R. stops
55 Stalk
56 Years ago
57 Prepared to drive, with "up"
60 Multinational business inits



Puzzle by Richard Hughes

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

Solution to Puzzle of May 8

H	O	I	S	T	S		I	H	A	D		J	A	B
M	A	N	T	R	A		N	A	V	E		A	D	O
O	R	D	A	I	N		T	I	G	E	R	C	U	B
		I	R	K		P	E	T		P	O	K	E	S
B	R	A	V	E	M	A	R	I	N	E	R			
L	U	N	E		O	Y	L		E	N	E	R	O	
A	B	E	D		V	I	E		E	D	M	O	N	D
S	I	X		R	E	N	A	R	D	S		Y	E	R
T	E	F	E	E	S		G	A	L		M	A	D	E
	S	O	T	T	O		U	T	E		A	L	G	A
		Y	A	N	K	E	E	D	O	D	G	E	R	
S	W	A	M	I		N	P	R		V	I	I		
M	E	T	A	N	G	E	L		C	A	S	A	B	A
E	R	A		E	L	L	A		A	T	O	N	A	L
W	E	D		R	O	L	Y		T	E	N	T	H	S

Harry's
Est. 1911, Paris
"Sank Roo Doe Noo"
A Space for Thought.

EUROPE

Blair Makes No Secret Of His Bold Program

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The Labour government signaled Thursday that it would move swiftly to carry out its campaign pledges, including consideration of the country's first "freedom of information act" and its first laws regulating campaign fund-raising by political parties.

The legislative program of Prime Minister Tony Blair, scheduled for formal presentation Wednesday by the Queen, will include roughly 17 to 20 proposals, officials said after the inaugural meeting of the Labour cabinet. The agenda is unusually ambitious for a fledgling government, or for any government here in recent years.

The program, to be carried out over the next 17 months, will most likely include a reordering of education spending to reduce class sizes for pre-school and primary education, a new "welfare to work" regime for recipients of state benefits, a management reorganization of the National Health Service, imposition of a system for setting a national minimum wage and machinery for referenda on decentralization of some legislative authority from the capital to Scotland and Wales.

All were promised in the campaign platform that helped Mr. Blair and the Labour Party win a landslide victory in the May 1 general election, ending 18 years of Conservative Party rule.

Among the greatest changes to government would be enactment of a freedom of information act, creating by law a right of access to official documents comparable to the federal Freedom of Information Act in the United States.

While no immediate legislation will be proposed Wednesday, according to a Downing Street spokesman, Mr. Blair will broadly outline his ideas and order a formal study of the scope of such an act. Britain is among the most secretive of Western democracies — with little legal obligation to provide information to anyone on any subject and a traditional inclination not to.

Similarly, any campaign finance proposals applied to Britain's political parties will go beyond current law, which restricts spending for individual House of Commons candidates but leaves the serious campaign spenders, the parties, free to take any amount of money from any source without disclosure. The new administration has said it favors a ban on contributions from foreign sources, who have tended to make large gifts to the Conservative Party, and a disclosure requirement for contributions above £5,000 ($8,000).

Because of Labour's majority of 179 seats in the Commons, Mr. Blair should encounter little difficulty passing these measures. The exact plans for the overburdened, increasingly expensive National Health Service — the government run health-care system — are unclear. Before the Conservatives took power, the health service was operated essentially as a vast single agency.

The Tories decentralized the health service, creating a system of individual jurisdictions that are run as if they were independent businesses, purchasing supplies and services on a competitive basis. Labour argued that the reforms resulted in a mass layoff of medical staff and a mass hiring of managers, swallowing more than $2.5 billion annually. Mr. Blair promised to eliminate the system, using the savings to provide medical care and reduce long waiting lists for many forms of treatment.

Paul Vicente/Agence France-Presse

BACK TO WORK — Cherie Blair, wife of the new prime minister, waving on Thursday outside London's High Court of Justice, where she donned wig and gown to resume her profession as a barrister. Mrs. Blair, 42, is a specialist in public and employment law.

Giscard Urges New Policy If Right Wins Election

Reuters

PARIS — Former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has urged President Jacques Chirac to shift to bolder, simpler policies after the parliamentary election and hinted he should not reappoint Prime Minister Alain Juppe.

In an unusually blunt interview on France 2 television on Wednesday night, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, a centrist who was president from 1974 until 1981, disclosed that he had advised Mr. Chirac against dissolving Parliament, encouraging him instead to do a better job of governing.

On dissolving Parliament, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said, "He asked my opinion and I advised him against it."

"I told him, in effect, that he was taking a big risk, since the debate would soon focus on the way in which France was being governed," he said, "and that most of the French people were unhappy with the way in which they were being governed.

"Under these conditions, it would have been more logical to first try to change the way they were governed."

With that decision now behind him, Mr. Chirac's message to voters should be that the center-right, if kept in power, would shift directions and pursue simpler and bolder policies, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said. Mr. Chirac shook the French political landscape last month in calling a sudden two-round parliamentary election for May 25-June 1, 10 months ahead of schedule, despite his government's huge majority in the National Assembly.

Since then, polls have shown the left growing stronger and coming within striking distance of pushing the current government out of power.

Mr. Juppe, who is leading the government campaign, lashed out at the opposition Socialists on Thursday amid signs of unease in his coalition as the left scents an upset victory.

Mr. Juppe sent the Socialist Party leader, Lionel Jospin, expected to publish an article in French newspapers on Friday, four questions he said everyone was asking about Mr. Jospin's program. The questions concerned taxation, immigration, Communist participation in government, and privatization.

"How will you finance the Socialist program without considerably raising the taxes of each French person?" Mr. Juppe asked.

Mr. Jospin says he can avoid tax increases with a program that includes creating 700,000 jobs and cutting working hours. He also said he would not impose extra austerity if needed to meet budget deficit targets for the euro.

Death of a Tory MP May Give Hope to Defeated Defense Chief

The Associated Press

LONDON — In a new blow to the Conservative Party, one of its diminished band of legislators died Thursday, a week after the Tories were routed in the general election by the Labour Party.

The death of Sir Michael Shersby, 64, who held his west London suburban district of Uxbridge by just 724 votes in the Labour landslide, raised the prospect of more humiliation for the Tories in a by-election. Sir Michael's majority had been a comfortable 13,179 votes in the 1992 elections.

Uxbridge, however, could be the best chance for Michael Portillo, one of former Prime Minister John Major's seven defeated cabinet ministers, to return to the House of Commons. If he can win a seat in Parliament, Mr. Portillo would then be eligible to run for party leader.

Mr. Major is stepping down from the leadership and a contest for his replacement is expected in July.

Six former cabinet ministers among the party's 164 legislators now left in the 659-member Commons have announced that they are candidates.

The cause of Sir Michael's death was not announced.

BRIEFLY

Bosnian Serbs Rebuff Kinkel

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A top Bosnian Serb official refused to meet Thursday with the German foreign minister, crimping his mission to speed the pace of reconciliation in postwar Bosnia and return hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel had come to Sarajevo with representatives of the European Union to urge the country's joint presidency to work harder on carrying out the 1995 Dayton peace accords.

The diplomatic slap in the face ostensibly was prompted by Serbian dissatisfaction with seating arrangements at a meeting between Mr. Kinkel and the Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian Muslim members of the presidency. It demonstrated the obstacles faced by the international community in trying to ride herd on the accords, which are meant to heal ethnic divisions in a country that is still seething with distrust after three and one half years of war.

The peace accords foresee freedom of movement, but the realities are different. Serbs, and to a lesser degree Croats and Muslims, continue to prevent refugees from returning to their homes. On Wednesday, a crowd in a Croatian-controlled town in western Bosnia attacked three Serbian refugees on a UN-organized trip to their hometown.

Alexander Ivanko, UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said the beatings showed "that the local authorities in Drvar are not trying in any way to stop the harassment of ethnic minorities and to stop the harassment of refugees." *(AP)*

Herzog Calls for Stronger EU

AACHEN, Germany — President Roman Herzog of Germany urged Europeans on Thursday not to underestimate the dangers of what he called re-emergent nationalism, saying it could be contained only by embracing European integration.

Mr. Herzog, who received the Charlemagne Prize for promoting European unity, said he understood the apprehension among citizens of the European Union about giving up their currencies and allowing the transfer of more power to Brussels. He urged them to be "Euro-critics" who recognize the problems but support integration.

"If we want to prevent the conflict scenarios predicted by the 'Euro-skeptics' evolving into self-fulfilling prophecies, then we must not cede the field now to those prophets of doom," Mr. Herzog said.

"The specters which stalked Europe in the 1930s have not been banished for all time. Everywhere they seem to be re-emerging and we must drive them back again by all the means at our command." *(Reuters)*

Doubt Is Cast on Albania Vote

TIRANA, Albania — President Sali Berisha asserted Thursday that "rebel committees" in the south of the Balkan state were an obstacle to free elections and he called on European monitors to go and look for themselves.

Following a meeting with Franz Vranitzky, who is an envoy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said that once the monitoring groups reported then all parties should declare an election date.

Mr. Berisha's stance appeared to be a further obstacle in the way of early elections, which were approved by all Albanian parties in March. Mr. Vranitzky did not comment after the meeting with Mr. Berisha. *(Reuters)*

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UBS
スイス・ユニオン銀行 Union Bank of Switzerland

American Sees Mobutu Meeting Kabila Again

Special Envoy Says 'Peace Has a Chance'

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Stopping in Paris to consult with French officials after 10 days of shuttle diplomacy in and around Zaire, the U.S. special envoy said Thursday that "the probability is high" that President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and the rebel leader Laurent Kabila will meet for a second time "sometime next week."

The envoy, Bill Richardson, refused to confirm news reports that Marshal Mobutu's talks with regional African leaders in Libreville, Gabon, on Thursday presaged a journey into exile, possibly to France, where the ailing leader has a Mediterranean villa.

"I don't know his exact travel schedule," said Mr. Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

He said he was encouraged that "peace does have a chance" because of mediation efforts led by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and a UN envoy, Mohammed Sahnoun. He predicted that they would produce "a transitional arrangement that will lead to democratic elections and the creation of a free market economy in short order."

"I think the probability is high for a second meeting, and I'm also encouraged that this second meeting will produce a result that does not involve a violent end, and that includes also an inclusive transitional government," Mr. Richardson said.

[In Tanzania, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa said a second meeting between Marshal Mobutu and Mr. Kabila was set for next Wednesday, adding that the place was uncertain because of Marshal Mobutu's health, Reuters reported.]

Mr. Richardson described the United States and France as "catalysts" to the process, and told reporters that the two countries — widely portrayed in the news media as being at odds over the approach to a transition — "share the same goals."

"We're working toward the same solution," he said.

Mr. Richardson left for Washington on Thursday and said he had no plans to resume his shuttle diplomacy in the region, despite his assertion that "the next few days are critical for peace in Zaire."

Asked for his impression of Mr. Kabila, Mr. Richardson called him "an interesting man, very street-smart, somebody that I believe needs to realize that he has to behave responsibly if he's going to get the support of the international community.

He said Mr. Kabila had assured him that the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations would have "full access to refugees" to investigate reported atrocities by rebel troops.

■ No Inkling of Flight, Paris Says

The French Foreign Ministry said Thursday that it had no indication Marshal Mobutu was planning to leave Zaire for exile in France, Reuters reported.

"We do not know the intentions of President Mobutu, so the possibility of exile is not a current question," a ministry spokesman said.

He noted that the president "has come here in the past for medical treatment." The Zairian underwent surgery for prostate cancer in Switzerland last August and spent several months convalescing in a villa on the Mediterranean.

Abdelhak Senna/Agence France-Presse

A Zairian rebel chasing away Rwandan refugees seeking food Thursday at a refugee camp near Kisangani. Below, a woman cradled her child as she waited for help. The refugees said rebels had killed 100 of their compatriots.

KINSHASA: *Capital Can't Forget Its History of Army Pillage*

Continued from Page 1

place about 190 kilometers (120 miles) east of Kinshasa as the rebels make their final approach to the capital. As Mr. Kabila's troops draw closer, there is a mounting sense of nervousness over whether the government's notoriously ill-disciplined soldiers will sack Kinshasa.

Across the river in Brazzaville, Congo, 3,500 Western troops, including about 1,150 Americans, stand ready to swoop into Kinshasa to evacuate the 350 or so Americans, 500 Canadians, and like numbers of Belgians, French and Portuguese citizens. But if past evacuations are any indication — and Western diplomats say nothing has changed — the role of any foreign troops arriving in Zaire be limited to rescuing Western citizens, rather than restoring law and order.

To get a sense of the scale of past destruction in Kinshasa, one can visit the skeletal remains of the city's industrial zone, a tongue of land between the Congo River banks and the railroad tracks. Here, most factories have not reopened since their vehicles were all hot-wired and machinery ripped from concrete foundations.

But the deepest scars of Kinshasa's riots are with the people themselves. Residents of the capital were robbed at gunpoint by Mr. Mobutu's troops, and raped and murdered by the hundreds.

Souleye Guisse, 60, a Senegalese businessman, twice lost everything when his shops here were ransacked. These days, he sits beneath a framed portrait of Marshal Mobutu, hanging like a talisman in his darkly lit office in Matonge, a smoggy working-class section of town, listening to two foreign radio stations simultaneously, hoping for a signal of what is to come.

"The problem with pillaging is it comes by surprise," said Mr. Guisse, who is the head of an association of West African traders here. "We all share the same fear, but we don't know when the trouble will come. If things go bad, it will be all of the sudden, and then only God can save us, because Lord knows the Westerners don't care."

Like many Zairians, Elie Noel, who trades in furniture and vividly remembers the 1993 pillaging, holds Mr. Mobutu responsible. He looks to the arrival of Mr. Kabila's troops for liberation from national humiliation under a leader who spared himself nothing while driving his country into abject poverty.

"Nowadays, we look at the prospect of pillaging the same way you would if you were sick with AIDS and given a medicine that could cure you, but had harsh side-effect, he said. "If this is the medicine we must swallow to get rid of Mobutu, we can take it. Mobutu has been looting this country for 32 years, but when he is finally gone, the people will still be here.

■ Presidents Meet in Gabon

Marshal Mobutu and a handful of fellow French-speaking African presidents held a meeting in Gabon on Thursday as part of the search for a peaceful end to the war threatening Kinshasa, news agencies reported from Libreville.

After a failed round of peace talks Sunday with Mr. Kabila, Marshal Mobutu flew to Libreville on Wednesday, for meetings with other African presidents. His aides insisted the trip was planned long ago, but many saw it as a way to gracefully get the ailing dictator out of Zaire before Mr. Kabila's forces reached the capital.

Mr. Mobutu walked hand-in-hand Thursday with President Omar Bongo of Gabon down a red carpet leading to the presidential palace in Libreville. They met at there with the presidents of Chad, Congo, the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea. Cameroon, current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, sent its foreign minister.

Gabonese officials gave no indications of the direction of the talks which by late Thursday had lasted more than six hours.

Abdelhak Senna/Agence France-Presse

Panel Advises Telling Troops Of Exposure To Gas in Gulf

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

CHARLESTON, South Carolina — Investigators for a White House panel have called on the Pentagon to tell some American and British troops that they may have been exposed to Iraqi mustard gas when they examined a leaking 300-gallon tank in a school in Kuwait several months after the Gulf War.

The panel, the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, said Wednesday that its investigation showed that the detection of mustard gas in the metal tank in August 1991 was "credible" and that troops who were nearby at the time of the leak should be notified of the potential health risks.

This is the second time the White House panel has called for the notification of troops who were in the vicinity of a possible release of deadly chemical weapons after the Gulf War.

In the other case, the Defense Department last year notified about 20,000 veterans that they may have been exposed to a cloud of nerve gas after the demolition of an Iraqi ammunition depot in March 1991.

The number of soldiers who may have been exposed at the girls' school near Kuwait City is a tiny fraction of that number — perhaps 20 — although an unknown number of other American troops may have been exposed to mustard agents when they later moved the tank out of the school and disposed of it.

While the Pentagon said Wednesday that it did not necessarily accept the panel's finding that there was a valid detection of mustard gas at the school, Defense Department officials said they would probably follow through on the recommendation to notify the troops.

As the Presidential Advisory Committee "has made this recommendation, it sounds like one we concur with," said Lieutenant General Dale Vesser, retired, deputy director of the Pentagon's investigation of the illnesses of Gulf War veterans.

Although scientists are divided on the question of whether exposure to trace levels of chemical weapons can lead to chronic health problems, the Pentagon has encouraged all Gulf War veterans to have special medical checkups.

GOLD: *Swiss Reject New Talks*

Continued from Page 1

forced the usually slow-moving Swiss to set up two inquiries into their historical record and into the fate of dormant bank accounts and to promise two funds — a $180 million Holocaust "solidarity" fund and a $4.7 billion humanitarian fund based on a plan to revalue gold reserves.

Throughout the month of negotiation and frequent acrimony, little attention was paid to details of Switzerland's commitments under the 1946 Washington Agreement. Under this, the country agreed to pay 250 million Swiss francs in return for the lifting of economic sanctions against Switzerland, which was neutral in the war.

The report said Switzerland did not make all the payments it promised and concluded that it was "most inexplicable" for Switzerland to protect Nazi assets other than gold for years after the war.

The report added that the Swiss paid the Allies $28 million by 1952, far less than the agreed 50 percent of the value of German assets in their country at the time.

Swiss news reports quoted Senator Alphonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, as having urged that the Washington agreement be renegotiated.

But Franz Egle, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Bern, said it was "not the intention of the Swiss government to renegotiate an agreement that was concluded more than a half-century ago and which has been fulfilled and realized."

Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti also rejected the idea of renegotiating the agreement, insisting that Switzerland had fully complied with it.

The issue raises the question of whether the Clinton administration should seek to force Switzerland to stick to its 1946 commitments, risking a backlash among many Swiss — particularly the older generation — who already resent the idea of financing what they see as an unjustified admission of wartime guilt.

Those sentiments reinforce the country's principal rightist leader, Christoph Blocher. He may challenge the establishment of the humanitarian investment fund through a referendum that must be held next year because a revaluation in gold reserves requires a change in the constitution.

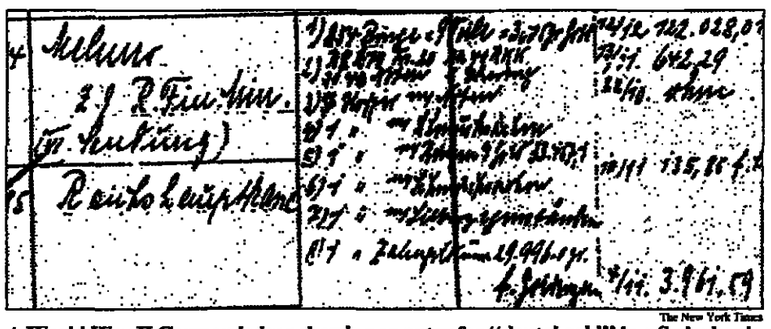
Another major issue to arise from the report is the likely destiny of the gold bars still in Manhattan and London — possibly the last chapter in the German practice of stealing gold that has come to be known as the "Nazi gold" affair.

"In the beginning, the question of looted gold was more of a secondary issue," said Thomas Lyssy, spokesman for the umbrella organization grouping Swiss Jewish organizations. "Now that it has been proved the looted gold also included gold stolen from victims of the Holocaust, this has given the issue added weight."

Therefore, he said, Swiss Jewish organizations supported the idea, raised in the Eizenstat report, that this gold should be distributed not just among European central banks laying claim to it but also to Holocaust survivors.

While many Swiss Jews expressed horror and outrage at the report's finding that "victim gold" had been melted down into ingots sold to the Swiss National Bank, Mr. Lyssy said the U.S. report could not prove that Swiss banks knew of the prominence of victim gold.

An important distinction drawn here between the report and previous disclosures about Switzerland's dealings is that the new findings also criticize postwar U.S. policy. "It's not just finger-pointing at Switzerland," Mr. Lyssy said.



The New York Times

A World War II German ledger showing an entry for "dental gold" in a Swiss bank.

FUNDS: *$100,000 Is Returned*

Continued from Page 1

that Young Brothers' only asset in the United States was an apartment in Washington.

Late Wednesday, Mr. Nicholson said, lawyers for the Republican committee verified that the money had originated in Hong Kong. "We immediately returned the contributions," he said.

He insisted that the Republicans' misstep was incomparable to the allegations against the Democrats, which include illegal fund-raising from foreigners and laundering of foreign donations.

"Not only did the Democrats engage in an orchestrated effort to solicit illegal contributions from foreign individuals and foreign sources," Mr. Nicholson said, "they went so far as to send their own fund-raisers overseas to get the money."

Democrats lost no time Thursday in responding.

"Now that the RNC has admitted accepting illegal contributions, they should do what the Democratic Party has already done — conduct a thorough, internal review of all their contributions by an independent auditor,' said the national chairman, Steve Grossman.

The Justice Department and 11 congressional committees are looking into alleged campaign fund-raising irregularities. Attorney General Janet Reno has resisted heavy political pressures to appoint an independent counsel to investigate possible abuses.

Mr. Nicholson said Thursday that the Republican committee was under the impression, when it received four donations from Young Brothers totaling $102,400, that the firm was controlled by Americans of Asian descent.

Young Brothers' involvement with the Republicans goes deeper. It guaranteed a $2.2 million loan to a nonprofit research organization, the National Policy Forum, established in 1993 by Haley Barbour, who had just become the Republican national chairman.

When the National Policy Forum defaulted on a part of its bank loan, Young Brothers was left to cover $500,000 of its debt. The forum no longer exists.

There is no law against a nonprofit group accepting foreign donations, and Republican officials said that money has not been returned.

BRIEFLY

Gadhafi Defies UN Flight Ban

NIAMEY, Niger — The Libyan leader, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, flew to Niger on Thursday, in defiance of a United Nations ban on flights from the pariah state.

Colonel Gadhafi, with a large entourage, arrived with four Libyan Airlines jets. "I came to bring support and sympathy to President Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, to the government and Nigerois people," Colonel Gadhafi said.

The UN ban was slapped on Libya in 1992 over the Lockerbie airplane bombing in 1988. *(Reuters)*

Sudan Prevents Aid for South

NAIROBI — The Sudanese government has banned aid workers from flying urgently needed relief supplies to the south of the country, where it has been losing ground to rebels, a United Nations agency said Thursday.

The ban began April 23, when a Khartoum-based plane was refused permission to fly to government-controlled areas in southern Sudan, said Sally Burnheim, a spokeswoman for Operation Lifeline Sudan. *(AP)*

Cuban Exile Leader Is Ailing

MIAMI — A Cuban exile leader, Jorge Mas Canosa, is suffering from the bone disorder called Paget's Disease but is still "enthusiastic and energetic," a spokeswoman for the Cuban American National Foundation said Thursday.

Mr. Mas Canosa, 57, is chairman of the foundation — the most powerful of the Florida-based Cuban exile groups opposed to President Fidel Castro's government. Analysts say he wields great influence over U.S. policy toward Cuba and harbors hopes of replacing Mr. Castro. *(Reuters)*

A Gripping Stop for Chretien

EDMONTON, Canada — The police detained a man for several hours after he would not let go of Prime Minister Jean Chretien's hand at a federal election campaign stop.

A police spokesman said the man was upset that Mr. Chretien had called the election despite the worst flooding in 145 years in the province of Manitoba. *(Reuters)*

Peru to Try 26 Police Officers

LIMA — Peru's highest military court has started proceedings against 26 police officers blamed for the security lapse that enabled Marxist rebels to seize the Japanese ambassador's home for four months.

The police officers include five generals, two of whom were held hostage by the rebels. *(Reuters)*

TRADE: *EU Ban on Some Meat Is Illegal*

Continued from Page 1

ican farmers were specifically approved by a standards-setting body within the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

U.S. government officials who have seen the 60-page ruling by the trade panel said it firmly concludes that the EU failed to satisfy the new standard for trade restrictions based on health.

"From our analysis, it comes down squarely on our side, based on the issue that food safety criteria have to be grounded on the basis of scientific principles," said an official, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified.

European experts and diplomats said they were not at all surprised by the ruling, which was delivered to both sides early Thursday morning in Geneva. The scientific consensus was simply too clear, they said.

But there is little doubt that the ban on hormone-treated beef is based on powerful popular suspicions across much of Europe about chemical additives in food. European media are full of stories about the decline in male fertility rates, with much of the speculation focusing on chemicals that people are absorbing from their environment. European foods routinely use fewer preservatives than American foods.

And when news reports periodically surface that cattle farmers in one country or another have been illegally using hormones, the reports have generated angry popular outbursts and have sometimes led to brief but noticeable declines in beef consumption.

The issue has become even more sensitive for Europeans in the last year, because of the furor over British cattle infected with "mad cow" disease. Fear of contaminated beef prompted other countries in the EU to block imports of British meat and ignited a battle between Britain and the rest of Europe over blocking the sale of British beef across most of the Continent.

The preliminary decision is the first ruling so far that is based on a three-year-old trade agreement known as the Safety and Phytosanitary Agreement. This requires, for the first time, that restrictions based on health and safety of food products must be based on scientific evidence that the restrictions protect human health.

"The trouble with the WTO agreement is that it does not provide for any measures that are based on consumer concerns," said Stefan Tangermann, a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Goettingen in Germany. "It only provides for measures that are based on scientific concerns."

The decision is almost certain to ignite a backlash among consumer groups and political leaders in much of Europe. The United States and the EU both have one month to review the report and press for changes.

Jet Crash in China Kills 10

Reuters

BEIJING — At least 10 people were killed and 20 injured on Thursday when a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 crash-landed in the southern town of Shenzhen, officials said.

They said it involved a scheduled flight from the southwestern city of Chongqing to Shenzhen.

The cause of the crash, the first reported in China in nearly three years, was unclear. An airline official said the plane was badly positioned before the crash.

WINE: *Asia's New Red Revolution? It Comes in a Glass – and It's Considered Healthy*

Continued from Page 1

quantity is now being seen as unhealthy."

This change has occurred in the past few years following publicity in the media of scientific findings that grapes and red wine can help to prevent heart disease and may also contain a potent cancer inhibitor.

It also helps that red is the color of good fortune for the Chinese.

When doctors treating Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej for heart trouble several years ago recommended that he drink a couple of glasses of red wine a day, it triggered a red wine boom in Thailand in place of whisky.

In the last three years, imports of wine into Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia mainly from France, the United States, Australia and Italy have almost doubled to just over 3 million nine liter cases, up from 1.5 million cases in 1994.

When Mr. Webster arrived in Hong Kong in 1972, Cognac consumption was about to reach 800,000 cases a year while the wine market absorbed just 100,000 cases. In 1997, wine consumption in the territory is expected to be close to 600,000 cases with Cognac sales at about 200,000 cases.

"There is huge wealth in Hong Kong and if the wine or vintage is prized, there will be a buyer," said Mr. Webster. "When I have been obliged to increase some Bordeaux prices by 30-40 percent thinking that this will slow demand, the consumer hardly blinks."

In Hong Kong, where the economy has expanded by an average of 6 percent a year over the last decade, per capita income in 1996 was $23,200, higher than Australia, Britain or Canada.

Some surveys suggest that there are already 240 million people in China's urban middle class, and probably 30 million Chinese with enough money to afford to buy international brand-name products, including imported wines.

Simon Tam, chairman of the Wine Institute of Hong Kong, is so bullish about prospects for growth of wine consumption in China that he plans to open a branch of the institute in Guangzhou in June and in Shanghai and Beijing in 1998.

The institute, which aims to promote wine consumption and awareness, makes money from wine consultancy services.

"Reunification will open a larger market for wine and spread the word about its benefits faster," Mr. Tam said.

But Philippe Guettat, managing director for China-Hong Kong wine sales at Casella Far East Ltd., a unit of the Pernod Ricard group of France, sounded a note of caution. He said that large surplus stocks of wine had built up in China since early 1996, much of it cheap French red imported by traders who hoped to make a quick profit but had little or no experience in the wine business.

"Dumping a lot of poor quality red will have an adverse effect on the reputation of wine in China," Mr. Guettat said. "But in the longer term, we believe there will be strong growth in the China market after the oversupply has been cleared."

INTERNATIONAL

ISRAELIS: *Rights Groups Criticize 'Torture'*

Continued from Page 1

is to all the attacks, is that the government has no option but to take extraordinary measures against the Arab militants who imperil Israel.

"The need to combat the plague of terrorism is a matter vital to this discussion and cannot be ignored," Nili Arad, director-general of the Justice Ministry, told the UN committee.

The ministry asserts that the General Security Service, the secret police better known as Shabak or Shin Bet, has foiled 90 planned attacks over the last two years, although the secrecy surrounding the interrogations has left it unclear what role coerced information played in those cases.

But at the hearing, Israeli officials said a bombing was averted in recent weeks by information obtained from a suspected militant who has complained of being tortured.

At the same time, Ms. Arad maintained Israel's stand that the permitted methods of "moderate physical pressure" are not torture.

Members of the UN committee — like Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross and various Israeli human rights organizations — insist that the Shin Bet's methods are indisputably torture as defined in international law.

And the conventions prohibiting it, they argue, exist precisely to protect detainees in extraordinary times, even in war.

"Israel is the only Western country that openly uses torture," said Lea Tsemel, a veteran defense lawyer and a founder of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel. "This is not some brute in the secret services beating up a prisoner. It's done in the open. There is a quiet legitimation by a high-ranking commission and government ministers."

George, a tall, handsome and soft-spoken man who said he was studying to be a certified public accountant, described the ordeal at his house while his parents and younger brothers listened anxiously.

He said he was arrested in December 1995, shortly before Israeli forces were to withdraw from Bethlehem, his home. According to human rights monitors, waves of detentions and interrogations preceded each Israeli withdrawal, possibly to garner what information Israel could before pulling out.

George told how several times during the interrogation, a big, muscular Israeli who gave his name as "Major Itai" and who spoke fluent Arabic with an Iraqi accent, seized him and violently rattled him back and forth, so that his head flopped uncontrollably, inflicting terrible pain to his spine and neck.

After two minutes, Major Itai would pause, then resume. After each session of shaking, of which he recalled seven, he was taken to a doctor, an Ethiopian Jew, to see whether he could take more. He remembers passing out three times, and once he had to be carried to the doctor. On that occasion, he said, the doctor gave him a Tylenol tablet.

Five days into the interrogation, George said that Major Itai hung him from a bar in the wall by his shackled hands, causing enormous pain. He said he screamed, while Major Itai laughed and cursed, yelling: "You will die here!"

The questions were about George's purported contacts in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist guerrilla organization that rejects peace with Israel and has headquarters in Syria; about people he knew, and about unsolved militant attacks. George was not charged with membership in the group, which is illegal in Israel. Then, as now, George denied he had any such information or affiliation.

When he was not in interrogation, George said, he was held either in a dark room the size of a closet or shackled to a low chair tilted forward in the position known in Hebrew as "*shabeh*," which induces considerable pain to the back and does not allow more than snatches of sleep, with a foul smelling sack over his head and music blaring at top volume. Three times a day, he was given five minutes to eat and use the toilet, and once a week he was taken to a shower.

George said that he was visited by a Red Cross worker after 13 days, and saw a lawyer after 20 days.

The duration of the ill-treatment and its extent may differ, but the experiences recounted by George have been described by hundreds of other Palestinians in interviews and affidavits, and endured by many thousands. The exact number is not known, since the Israeli government does not give information on the number of Palestinian detainees subjected to formal interrogation by Shin Bet, and only a relative handful of cases have reached the courts.

Human rights organizations have estimated that about 5,000 Palestinians a year were subjected to some combination of ill-treatment or violent methods in the years before the signing of the peace agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization 1993. By all accounts, the practice has continued unabated since.

But the domestic debate is not over the number, nor even the fact, of the practices, which the Israeli government acknowledges. The dispute, rather, is over the fact that the entire Israeli security, legal, and legislative establishment — the secret services, the army, the Parliament and the courts — has effectively institutionalized the use of violence in questioning Palestinians.

The legal basis for the methods is the report of a commission appointed in 1987 to investigate assertions of torture by the secret services. That panel, the Landau Commission, came up with the revelation, stunning at the time, that the Shin Bet had for years used violent methods in questioning Palestinians, including "criminal assault, blackmail, and threats," and then had routinely lied about it to military courts.

But instead of banning such practices outright, the commission proposed legalizing "a moderate measure of physical pressure" in interrogations, and spelled out permissible techniques. The details have remained classified, on the ground that detainees should not know what they face, even though pamphlets about the methods are readily available from human rights organizations.

Official Israeli justifications come on several levels. The first is that violent shaking, sleep deprivation, and the other techniques are not torture. Human rights organizations counter that the 1984 UN Convention Against Torture, which Israel ratified in 1991, defines torture as "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person" to obtain information or a confession.

The next justification is that Israel faces a unique threat of terrorism, and therefore cannot be gentle with a detainee who may know of a "ticking bomb," Israeli shorthand for a violent militant act about to be committed.

"We are in a terror situation, bombs explode around us, we have to use force, and for this decision we pay a big price," Shai Nitzan, an assistant attorney general who represents the Shin Bet, said.

Greg Marinovich/The Associated Press

An Israeli honor guard getting set Thursday for the U.S. envoy's arrival.

U.S. Envoy Has Talks With Mideast Leaders

Reuters

JERUSALEM — The U.S. Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross, held high-level talks Thursday in Gaza and Jerusalem on reviving Israel-PLO peace negotiations but appeared to make little headway in his rescue mission.

The issue that plunged the peace process into crisis, Jewish settlement on land claimed by the Palestinians, took center stage as settlers occupied a newly acquired house in Arab East Jerusalem in a move coinciding with Mr. Ross's visit.

Making his second trip to the region in a month, Mr. Ross met Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza and later held talks in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "I cannot tell you that I am optimistic," Mr. Netanyahu said to reporters before meeting the envoy.

Israel demands that Mr. Arafat crack down on Muslim militants blamed for bombings before resuming talks, a move Mr. Netanyahu said "would help the peace process."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, said the Palestinian leader stressed to Mr. Ross the need to stop all settlement activity before peace talks could resume. Mr. Netanyahu's aide, David Bar-Illan, said the work would continue.

"There are difficult problems that have to be overcome, but we all realize the importance of trying to find ways to move forward," Mr. Ross told reporters in Gaza after meeting Mr. Arafat. Mr. Ross said he would hold talks again with Mr. Arafat on Friday.

Peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization broke down two months ago after Mr. Netanyahu gave the final go-ahead to build 6,500 houses for Jews on a West Bank hilltop Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

On Jerusalem's Mount of Olives on Thursday, Jewish settlers moved into a house acquired for a Jewish religious seminary from a church.

"We don't negare the right of Arabs to live in Jerusalem but Jews have a right to live in all of the city," said Chaim Silberstein, the school's director. "As a yeshiva, we are not political."

LASER: *End of Dental Drill?*

Continued from Page 1

Studies sponsored by the manufacturer of the system, Premier Laser Systems Inc., were begun in 1993. They showed that the laser was as safe and effective as a high-speed drill, the food and drug agency said, and that it reduced the number of patients requiring anesthetic for pain. The agency also approved the laser for roughening enamel in preparation for bonding procedures.

Premier will begin marketing its laser systems immediately and could have them in dentists' hands within 90 days, although there will be some delay as dentists undergo training, Colette Cozean, Premier's chairman and chief executive, said.

The biggest obstacle to rapid use of the product may be its price. The company says it will cost $39,000, about 10 times what a drill might cost. Premier plans to offer leasing and financing deals to dentists. Some of the doctors in the studies charged higher prices for the laser procedures, but insurers so far have been willing to pick up the additional cost, she said.

For now, the laser system is approved only for adults. The company hopes that clearance for persons 18 and younger will come as soon as it can demonstrate that the laser poses no risk to the larger sensitive interior of a child's tooth.

The feature that sets Premier's laser apart from others, Ms. Cozean said, is that it operates at a wavelength that allows it to penetrate the tooth and slice away decay with extreme precision, preserving more of the healthy tooth.

Robert Pick, a Chicago dentist and spokesman for the American Dental Association, said the new laser system was one of a series of advances in the past few years that had thrust dentistry ahead by "quantum leaps."

Those include dental implants that have replaced full dentures, the regeneration of diseased gum and bone tissue, high-technology plastics for bonding and, most recently, genetic testing to determine whether a person is predisposed to periodontal disease.

Ms. Cozean said the company had submitted data on more than 1,300 procedures to the Food and Drug Administration. Only three of the patients had needed pain medication, and that was probably because of sensitivity to cold water, she said.

The company also hopes its lasers will later be cleared for other applications, such as root-canal surgery and the cutting and shaping of bone.

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Unfinished Business

The honest excavation of history can bring sobering discoveries, as the American government has now found in an examination of Nazi Germany's stolen gold and its redistribution after the war. No nation emerges unscathed from this investigation, including the United States, and many are disgraced. It is saddening but not altogether surprising to learn that morality and justice, especially the international obligation to look after the survivors of the Holocaust, were swiftly sacrificed to expediency when the gold was divvied up after the war. Remedying this failure, as the report rightly notes, is the unfinished business of World War II.

The extraordinary inquiry, which involved the declassification of nearly one million pages of documents, was initiated by President Bill Clinton after Switzerland coldly rebuffed Jews seeking to recover gold and other assets their families had deposited in Swiss banks before the war. Under the determined direction of Stuart Eizenstat, the new undersecretary of State for economic affairs, and William Slany, a State Department historian, it touches on wartime economic collaboration with Germany but deals mainly with the anemic postwar effort to restore gold and other valuables to the nations and peoples from which they had been stolen.

Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Argentina will want to take notice. The extent of their economic cooperation with the Nazis has been slowly unfolding in recent years, but Mr. Eizenstat makes clear they profited from their neutrality. Even as the threat of German invasion waned in the last years of the war, Sweden sold Germany iron ore and ball bearings, Portugal provided tungsten for steelmaking, Spain traded goods and raw materials and Turkey shipped chrome. Argentina defied efforts to prevent the transfer of German funds there from Europe.

Switzerland is properly singled out. Though helpful to the Allies as a base for spying, it served as Nazi banker, gold keeper and financial broker. Switzerland provided Germany with arms, ammunition, aluminum and agricultural products.

These countries made only a fitful effort after the war to return the looted gold and other assets they received in payments from Germany during the war. Here America bears considerable responsibility. It led the postwar effort to recover and distribute the gold. Yet only a small portion of the $580 million in gold stolen from conquered governments, worth some $5.6 billion today, was ever recovered. Even less of the millions of dollars in gold and other assets taken from individuals was returned.

Switzerland was aggressively unhelpful, resisting accounting and recovery efforts for years and not honoring agreements to liquidate German assets held in Switzerland. The American report estimates that as much as $400 million in German-looted gold remained in the Swiss National Bank at the end of the war, but no more than $58 million was returned.

The task of tracing and apportioning the gold and other assets was daunting, but American officials tolerated intransigence by other nations and accepted pitiful restitution agreements in the name of Cold War solidarity. Eager to obtain access to an Azores air base in the 1950s, Washington let Portugal surrender only about one-tenth of the German gold it held at the end of the war. Spain eventually returned just $114,000 in looted gold from a stockpile of $30 million.

Turkey, which held $44 million in Nazi assets and $5 million in looted gold, made no restitution. Only Sweden paid up.

The victims of this dismal record were the survivors of the Holocaust and others left homeless and stateless by the war. Assets that could have been used to help them were never returned to the countries plundered by Germany. Worse still, gold and other valuables found in Germany that had been seized from millions of individuals and households across Europe were knowingly mingled with assets stolen from European governments by the Nazis. As a result, gold that should have gone to help individuals through relief and compensation programs ended up in European and American government vaults, where some remains today.

These matters remained too long obscured from public view, shielded by excessive secrecy and national pride. It is late to redress the wrongs, but every effort should now be made to return gold and other assets to those with a legitimate claim. Switzerland, after long delay, is finally making an effort to trace and return assets deposited before the war. Mr. Eizenstat and Mr. Slany have performed a high public service by digging for the truth.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CIA's 'Zipless Coup' in Iraq Is a Matchless Flop

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency has spent six years and $110 million trying to overthrow Saddam Hussein in the most expensive sustained failure in agency history. Iraq is the Bay of Pigs in unending free fall, with fresh humiliation looming around the corner.

The agency could not stop throwing money at the Saddam problem if it wanted to. Refusing to admit defeat, the White House orders this international embarrassment prolonged. The current covert operation, which will cost about $5 million this year, has dwindled into an ineffective propaganda effort carried out by two Arabic-language radio stations in Jordan and Kuwait.

Senators who normally line up to rail at executive agencies for wasting taxpayer money have kept quiet on the CIA debacle in Iraq. The Senate Intelligence Committee passed up a golden opportunity to educate itself and the American public on Tuesday when it failed to probe the CIA Director-designate George J. Tenet about Iraq and cost-effectiveness in Mr. Tenet's confirmation hearings.

It is now up to Mr. Tenet, all but assured confirmation as America's top spy, to decide what to do about this continuing failure, in which he played a not insignificant role as a member of President Bill Clinton's National Security Council staff and then as deputy director of the CIA.

The story he could assemble would rival any spy novel. Interviews in Washington and Europe with CIA personnel, Iraqi dissidents and foreign intelligence sources provide new insights into this colossal exercise in self-deception and factionalism within the agency.

Some Americans who worked in Iraq covertly now wonder whether the agency was a victim of an elaborate sting perpetrated by Mr. Saddam, who watched with a benign eye as the CIA funneled money and Iraqi military defectors into a Jordan-based exile group for two years before he effortlessly rolled up that organization and exposed its American roots last summer.

"The guys in Amman were promising us a zipless coup, telling us they had the silver bullet that would change Iraq," said an American who worked on the Iraq covert program. "They were put out of business in an afternoon, and a big U.S. investment just went up in smoke."

Despite that failure, the agency is set to provide $4.8 million in covert funds to that group — the Iraqi National Accord, or INA — again this year, according to my sources. But it will be less than that if Jordan's King Hussein yields to Mr. Saddam's increasingly insistent demands to shut down the agency-financed, INA-run radio studio and transmitter, which broadcasts as Voice of the Future.

King Hussein is known to feel badly burned by the INA fiasco. The agency pressured Jordan to provide facilities and high-level political support for the group's amateurish coup plotting and then left the Jordanians to suffer the political consequences.

The king's shutting down the station would be a final humiliation for the agency in an effort that was conceived and pursued in halfhearted fashion after George Bush and his generals declined to use military might to remove Mr. Saddam in 1991.

President Bush put up $40 million as a down payment on Mr. Saddam's removal when he secretly ordered the agency to create the conditions for Mr. Saddam's downfall in 1991. Much of that money went to buy and move a clandestine radio transmitter from Croatia and to finance a London-based propaganda operation that turned out fake Baghdad newspapers, television films and radio broadcasts.

About 15 American contract employees worked in London to produce the expensive propaganda. At one point, the agency used an unmanned aircraft based in northern Iraq to drop anti-Saddam leaflets across Iraq on the dictator's birthday.

Within the agency, the Iraq operation was seen by some — including Frank Anderson, former head of the Middle East department — as a can of worms. These officers knew they would never get enough money or political support from the White House to engage in an all-out war against Mr. Saddam.

That feeling was reinforced when annual funding was cut to $20 million in late 1992, and then to $15 million in 1994, after Bill Clinton came to the White House and adopted Mr. Bush's program in a memorandum of notification to Congress. Ambitious junior officers targeted the money on flashy projects that led nowhere but allowed the White House to pretend something was happening.

The agency has been used as "the last resort of failed policy" in Iraq by two administrations. Mr. Tenet used those words on Tuesday to describe something that he said would never happen to the CIA on his watch. He did not mention Iraq, but agency veterans knew what he had in mind.

It still is unclear how deep and how self-critical Mr. Tenet's assessment of the Iraq failure runs. He enthusiastically backed the INA "zipless coup" option when he became deputy director of the CIA, according to agency sources. If there was a Saddam sting, he was one of its principal victims.

The Senate is on the verge of giving Mr. Tenet one of life's rare chances to clean up a mess he helped make. If he does not take it and shape a covert program capable of producing change in Iraq, Congress should step in swiftly with its own investigation of a national humiliation.

The Washington Post.

A European Voice in the Debate Over Humanitarian Aid

By Emma Bonino

The writer is European commissioner for humanitarian affairs.

BRUSSELS — The dilemmas facing those of us rethinking the issue of humanitarian aid look different depending on the side of the Atlantic we are on.

Allow me to contribute a European point of view to the healthy, much-needed debate launched in these columns by J. Brian Atwood and Leonard Rogers of the U.S. Agency for International Development *(IHT, March 12 and 13)*.

They write that the world will not reply to crises in peripheral states without U.S. leadership. Really? I do not believe Europe's humanitarian response to recent crises was delayed in anticipation of a lead from Washington.

But if by "reply" the authors mean "seek solutions," that is a different ball game, to use an American expression. It is a game I do not believe humanitarian actors should be playing.

Today, conflict rages in Eastern Zaire and elsewhere in the Great Lakes region of Africa. North Korea is starving, and the fate of Afghanistan as a nation-state grows increasingly uncertain. These are but some of the issues on our agenda.

Should we feed Rwandan refugees now deep in Zaire who took part in genocide in their country — or should we view their current predicament as rough justice for their horrible crimes? Is it wise for us to relieve North Korea's government of responsibility for feeding its own people, even though that may enable Pyongyang to concentrate on military spending? Is it right to help the people of Kabul, disregarding the Taleban's record of gross violations of human rights, especially women's rights? Should the Italian government open the gates to all those fleeing unrest in Albania, despite hard evidence that the exodus of asylum-seekers is being managed by organized crime?

These questions reflect the growing complexity of issues that are testing the humanitarian community. Such issues are understandably confusing to the public. Doubts and uncertainties are beginning to erode support for humanitarian aid, which is why I wholeheartedly welcome a debate.

Yes, the world has changed — though not for the better. Yes, I agree the international community looks set to face a proliferation of micro-conflicts at regional and subregional levels. The root causes of such crises may be ethnic, religious, political, tribal. Unlike Cold War-era crises, these tend to develop unchecked unless and until they become a threat to global security or to major economic interests, or until they sufficiently rouse the public's conscience.

And yes, I agree the United States is the sole remaining superpower, and the only nation with truly global reach — though I find this frustrating. What I regret, as a federalist European, is the fact that European capitals seem to be resigned to life as a mere bunch of lesser military allies, and that the European Union is too hesitant about asserting itself as a partner on a par with the United States in the political and economic spheres.

Does U.S. global reach also entail global responsibility? That is what the Atwood/Rogers approach seems to imply. But the United States is and will remain a nation-state, however big and powerful. It will legitimately pursue its own national interests, values and geopolitical agenda before all else. Goals and priorities are bound to change depending on the government of the day.

Africa, traditionally peripheral in U.S. foreign policy, is an excellent example of a pattern of moving goalposts. The United States used to be motivated by the containment of socialist ideology on the continent. This warranted backing the Mobutus and Savimbis, as well as keeping a cool distance from the socialist-inclined African National Congress of Nelson Mandela. President Ronald Reagan, we may recall, vetoed sanctions legislation but was overruled by Congress. That is now history. Then came the containment of Islamic radicalism, which implied backing new leaderships in Eritrea, Ethiopia and elsewhere.

Now there are new priorities. These include containing corrupt postcolonial regimes and fostering market economies.

Aid is about people, not governments, and should never be considered a part of any nation's foreign policy.

For me, the new generation of African leaders represents a positive change in a political landscape that is sometimes disheartening.

However, there are some things about them that are making me lose sleep. Many in this group of very articulate, reformist leaders — soon to be joined by Laurent Kabila — are allergic to multiparty democracy (with the exception of the Ethiopians). They seem to think respect for human rights is optional, and they resort to warfare with disturbing ease.

Africa illustrates my two main conclusions, crucial in evaluating the new U.S. approach to humanitarian aid:

- U.S. foreign policy priorities will keep changing, depending on Washington's perception of where U.S. national interests lie at any point in time;
- Washington's priorities may not always coincide with, or be representative of, the prevailing analysis of the international community at large.

This is why I do not think it is appropriate to focus the argument on prescriptive guidelines for U.S. humanitarian intervention. Humanitarian aid should never be devised as a part of any country's foreign policy. I would certainly oppose the idea if European Union governments or institutions were to suggest it.

I agree that someone needs to find solutions for the fundamental causes of complex emergencies. But this should be the job of other actors, not those directly involved in humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid is about people, not governments.

As for us, we must make sure relief reaches the hungry child whose only sin was to have been born in Sudan, in Cuba or in a refugee camp in Zaire. We must work hard to preserve what is left of the impartiality innate in the concept of humanitarian aid.

We must keep such aid available as a last resort for all human beings in need, wherever they are, whatever passport they hold.

International Herald Tribune.

Meetings in Mexico

What the United States wants from Mexico is not just agreements on disruptive issues involving trade, finance, drugs and immigration, although these are essential national priorities on both sides. The real purpose is to add a useful continuing, if modest, increment to Mexico's own capacity to govern. That government's powers are antiquated, unresponsive and severely burdened by the problems of the country. Whether President Bill Clinton provided this sort of help on the Mexican stop of his hemispheric trip is hard to measure. But in word and gesture, he made an earnest effort to set a positive tone for the Mexican-American relationship, and his host, President Ernesto Zedillo, did his share, too.

Mr. Clinton's approach to the explosive drug issue was typical. His goal was to move it from confrontation to partnership in order to spur a tougher assault on supply and transit by Mexico and on consumption by the United States. Hence his call for a joint drug-threat assessment and his admission of the American responsibility for generating high drug demand. It is charged that Washington has hesitated to invoke the full rigors of the one-sided certification process against a country whose cooperation and goodwill are needed across a range of difficult issues. The charge is accurate, but there was good reason for the U.S. government to hesitate. Now it falls to the two governments to improve the anti-drug results.

Of Mr. Clinton's symbolic affirmations in Mexico, none was more important than his calls — an American president's first — on the political opposition to the PRI, the party that has ruled for 68 years. The PRI's immobilism and corruption are legend. Mr. Zedillo is at once its creature and its would-be reformer. He is coming up to Mexico's midterm elections on July 6 as the champion of change in the political culture. But serious change of the sort that will promote openness and accountability is best nailed into place not by reform from the top but by political competition from below.

This was the message intended by Mr. Clinton's calls on the opposition. This is not a presidential year in Mexico. Thanks to President Zedillo, however, voters in the capital will be having their first crack at electing their mayor — the country's second most important political post. If it is Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano of the opposition PRD, currently the leading contender, he will be making history.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Hope for Ulster

Britain's newly elected Labour government has moved quickly on the Northern Ireland question, raising cautious hopes that the stalled peace process will be resumed. The new Northern Ireland secretary, Marjorie (Mo) Mowlam, already has ordered a series of measures intended to restore confidence in the process, wounded by hardball politics and the violent opposition of the Irish Republican Army.

She has committed the government to reform the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the police department of what remains a British province. Her aim is to ensure fair treatment for all citizens, Catholic and Protestant. Another promising sign is Tony Blair's strong Labour majority in Parliament, an advantage that should provide him the maneuvering room needed. On the Irish Republican side, Gerry Adams and his Sinn Fein party came out of the election slightly fortified. The question is whether the vote for Sinn Fein was a vote for peace and against IRA violence.

— Los Angeles Times.

New Hong Kong Boss Asks the West to Quit Rubbernecking

By Tom Plate

HONG KONG — When Tung Chee-hwa, the new boss of Hong Kong, settled his bearish body into his office sofa last Friday night for a long chat, he hadn't met with many Western journalists. But with apprehension about his true intentions growing both inside and outside Hong Kong, that reclusiveness looks finally to be ending.

His handlers seem now to accept that this 60-year-old shipping tycoon cannot, no matter how much Beijing might wish it, play peekaboo with the public and the media forever. So finally this jowly, animated, successful businessman, whose job is to bring the world's feistiest and most entrepreneurial circus under the dour "special administrative" tent of the People's Republic of China, is starting to step out.

Mr. Tung needs the world's understanding; he clearly is on a tightrope, with the 6.3 million people here praying he doesn't lose his balance. His recent proposals to modify statutory political rights, presumably put forth at China's behest, have put the news media, if not the average Hong Konger, on red alert — and the rest of the world on the edge of its seat.

Mr. Tung emphatically insists that there is less to the new proposals than meets the eye and that their restrictions on political parties and street demonstrations may not even go into effect as currently written. Maybe, but despite Mr. Tung's warm style and unquestioned affection for Hong Kong, the truth is that the gap on human rights and press freedom issues between East and West is vast.

"I am not saying freedom is not important," he said. "It is. But the West just doesn't understand Chinese culture. It's time to reaffirm who we are. Individual rights are not as important as order in a society. That is what we are, and we will be what we are. We will be Hong Kong, and we must find our own way."

Mr. Tung clearly wanted to leave the impression that we in the West have got to stop staring at this place like it's some Tiananmen Square disaster in the making. We're rubbernecking on the freeway of international relations, he suggests, trying to catch a glimpse of some blood-and-gore collision at the Hong Kong interchange. He has a point, but what's certain is that we do have to stop expecting Mr. Tung to act and sound like Thomas Jefferson (which he sure as heck isn't). Face the reality, folks: Hong Kong is soon to be China's. And if the West wishes to work with Mr. Tung, it must understand that on many issues, he will not just agree with Beijing because he has to but because, in his heart, he sees things that way.

To what extent, then, will he tolerate political street demonstrations, much less the pesky press? The question gets under his skin. Raising his voice, he dismisses the British, who, he charges, only got religion about individual rights recently, when the world spotlight began to focus on their long colonial stewardship over Hong Kong.

"The British? They're anti-Chinese and they have a total mistrust of China," Mr. Tung said. "So now I have to work very hard and prove to the world that we are going to be fine."

But if Hong Kongers aren't to have all the freedoms of Americans, will they at least have more than the Chinese? He thought hard, then answered: "In Hong Kong, we have a culture. To demonstrate is part of our culture, and so people demonstrate. We are Hong Kong, we are not Beijing. Of course there will be freedom."

Mr. Tung implies that his job as chief executive could become impossible if America and China constantly are at each other's throats. Arguing passionately that there are no truly major strategic fault lines between America and China, he deplores the commonplace Western view that all you need to know about the Chinese political system is what you saw on CNN broadcasts from Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

"Americans need to realize that it's really quite unbelievable what is happening in China. The changes are just astounding." The Tiananmen massacre, he said, "is not going to happen again."

That surely would be a blessing for all concerned, especially for those taking orders from Beijing. I'm told that when Mr. Tung telephones China, either the president or the foreign minister picks up. Interesting, but when the bosses of Beijing answer, do they listen as well as give orders? For in order for this historic giveback to actually work out well for everyone involved, at least two things must happen. Yes, the West must give Mr. Tung a chance to breathe; but, of equal importance, Beijing must give Mr. Tung a chance to be a Hong Konger and chart a path separate from the mainland's.

Obliquely referring to that other "special administrative district" — Taiwan — that China would wish to gather under its untested "one country, two systems" formula, Mr. Tung noted sagely: "A successful Hong Kong is very important to China. It will make further unifications an easier job. It is in China's national interest to make Hong Kong work." No one could have put it any better.

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An Overlooked Dissident in China

FOR NEARLY 20 years, the Chinese government has sought to silence one of the world's most important political prisoners, Wei Jingsheng.

Once an electrician in the Beijing Zoo, Mr. Wei is the strongest voice of China's democracy movement. He has spent all but six months of the last 18 years in prisons and labor camps, most in solitary confinement in conditions that would have killed a less stubborn man long ago and may soon kill Mr. Wei, who is 46 and very ill.

Now serving a second long sentence, he is watched around the clock by nonpolitical criminal prisoners who ensure he does not put pen to paper. But during his first imprisonment he was permitted to write letters to his family, prison authorities and China's leaders. Most were never sent. But they have now been translated and published as "The Courage to Stand Alone."

The moral force of Mr. Wei's writing recalls the prison letters of other famous dissidents, such as Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Michnik and Vaclav Havel. But those dissidents had widespread support; they knew people all over the world were looking out for them and their governments were under pressure to free them, treat them well and heed their cause. This security is as important to a political prisoner's survival as food and water, and Mr. Wei and his fellow Chinese dissidents do not have it.

— Tina Rosenberg, writing in The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Sound in Court

PARIS — The use of a graphophone as evidence in a court of law has not yet been established, although an effort was made in the U.S. Supreme Court. Anthony Sauer is suing the New York and Harlem Railroad Company because of the noise caused by the trains. The lawyers employed an expert who used three cylinders to get impressions of the sound caused by the running of trains on the graphophone. However, the judge said that the cylinders could not be used in evidence, as nothing had been introduced to show exactly what noises might come from them.

1922: German Greed

WASHINGTON — It was German greed for a Caribbean naval base which caused the United States to take over the management of affairs in Haiti, according to former Secretary of State Robert Lansing. According to him, the establishment of peace and prosperity in the Republic and the blocking of German designs of aggression, which threatened the United States and the Monroe Doctrine, were the motives which caused the United States to act in island affairs.

1947: A Labor Defeat

PARIS — Nation-wide elections to name administrators of the new French Social Security plan showed that the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labor suffered an important political defeat, whereas the newly formed Committee of Middle Class Liaison and Action surprisingly attracted 12 percent of the voters. The Figaro predicted that the middle classes would from now on maintain their own social interest through increasing organization.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

ESTABLISHED 1887

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Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean

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S.A.S. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61337
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ISSN: 0294-8052.

OPINION/LETTERS

The Famous and Rich Get Taken for a Ride

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — Great hoaxes say more about the hoaxed than the hoaxer.

The Bre-X fool's gold find in Indonesia ranks among the great scams of modern times: the Great Salad Oil Scandal of the late 1950s, when U.S. banks were duped into making huge loans secured on empty tanks of vegetable oil; the Investors Overseas Services debacle of the late 1960s, when thousands of mutual fund investors were taken for a costly ride; or, more recently, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International's multibillion-dollar deception of banks around the world.

The fascination in the Bre-X case is not so much with whichever previously obscure persons in Canada, Indonesia or the Philippines concocted and sold the tale of the world's richest gold deposit. Nor is it with the mechanics of how the drill cores were crushed and salted. It is fascination with the not-so-obscure names who bought the Bre-X story.

Gullibility and greed are two sides of the same coin now as when medieval alchemists were selling similar tales of miraculous means of changing dross into gold.

Gullibility and greed: two sides of the same coin.

By insisting on an independent report and finding out the truth about the Busang "gold" deposit in Indonesia, the American company Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold has done a service.

But one question remains unanswered: How did so many big names become so deeply involved in the episode before the reality was revealed? There obviously was fraud. But it is not as though large mining companies are not aware how difficult it is to find gold in suitable quantities anywhere. They know only too well how much tedious and costly drilling is needed over months or years to confirm and define even a modest deposit. Even the richest seams are variable in shape and gold content. That is why gold is worth the price of gold.

Yet the belief that tiny Bre-X had found the "world's richest deposit" in Indonesia took hold not only among Canadian punters in penny mining stocks who are used to the often inflated claims of small exploration companies. What made Bre-X into a global story was the seemingly uncritical acceptance of the claims by big-name companies and some influential individuals. Their zeal to get part of the action gave Bre-X credibility.

At first this was the fairly harmless Bre-X recruitment of President Suharto's eldest son, Sigit Harjojudanto, as consultant to clear the way for the grant of a mining permit.

But before the permit was issued, two North American mining giants, Barrick Gold Corp. and Placer Dome Inc., were trying to muscle in on the project. Barrick joined forces with the president's elder daughter, Siti Hardijanti Rukmana (better known as Tutut), and wheeled in former President George Bush of the United States and former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada to support its case.

In Jakarta, ministries, ministers and courtiers battled for pieces of the action. Eventually the situation became so messy that President Suharto intervened. The solution brought in Freeport and Mr. Suharto's close business associate, Bob Hasan. Barrick, Placer and others were left in the cold.

Now, everyone is in the cold, not knowing which to regret more, the greed or the gullibility. The mining companies will need a while to live down this ignominious tale, which is bound to make mining in Indonesia (and perhaps elsewhere) more difficult, and exploration harder to finance. The bigger question, however, is its impact in Indonesia, facing an election in the short term and a succession in the longer term.

Will Busang be seen as a scam of no lasting significance? Or be taken as an example of victimization of the nation by unscrupulous Westerners?

Or will it be viewed as evidence that the unbridled acquisitiveness of some well-connected Indonesians can bring the nation, as well as its leadership, into disrepute?

International Herald Tribune.

The Joys and Revolting Chores of Motherhood

By Elizabeth Ann Hulick

PARIS — One of the most challenging jobs any woman can volunteer for is that of a mother. If you happen to work outside the home as well, you get the doubly most challenging job.

At home, you come last. In the morning, your toddler will dog your steps, position himself literally underfoot, and accompany you to the toilet, to the shower, to the dressing room. You eat after him, if there is still time to eat,

MEANWHILE

and you get yourself ready in under 15 minutes, even if you allow yourself two hours before you have to leave for work in the morning. The rest of the morning race is devoted to your child's eating, diapering, dressing and distraction.

Your personal grooming gets pared down to the essentials: color-coordinated clothes that you can grab and put on fast. A friend, mother of five, mentions the endless possibilities of black and white. We dress like nuns, minus the headgear.

While you are hastily applying your makeup in the morning, your child is emptying the bathroom cupboards all over the floor and is amusing himself by attempting to ingest some shampoo. He must, has to, brush his teeth, even before he has many teeth. You must, have to, brush your teeth at the same time. The toothpaste must be replaced in the drawer, the drawer firmly shut, before the brushing can proceed. Together. He howls if you do not follow suit precisely. His soggy toothbrush gets left in the hallway.

You are careful about where you walk at home, because there is a haphazard trail of toys throughout the house — no matter how many hundreds of times you pick them up, reassemble the parts and tuck them away in the toy chest.

You notice the phone is off the hook and you look to see your child laughing and babbling into the cordless. Did he just dial Buenos Aires?

The garbage bin fills daily, mostly with wadded-up disposables, because babies have this infernal tendency to do the big duty in a new diaper. You delve over and over into bodily functions of the most horrid, enough-to-take-your-breath-away, foulness. You are thrown up upon. You reach into the mouth of your toddler and extract saliva-covered half-chewed undesirables. You become, astonishingly, unfazed by all this.

Your child, even at 16 months, understands your weak points and learns, better than any other near and dear one, how to push your buttons. He filters the food in his mouth and pushes the larger chunks out and onto the floor. Or spews straight out in your direction, laughing with glee. He fetches his shoes and is pointing for his coat before you have found the keys he has hidden.

The evenings after work are dinner, bath, books and bed. For him. You get whatever time that is left after that. Your biggest ambition in life becomes watching a little television before going to bed. Or just going to bed. You come to accept these ambitions as noble.

The night before, you were shaken out of a deep sleep at one or two or three in the morning. You didn't bother to check the time. It was quiet, it was dark, it was not supposed to be time to get up yet. You were jolted into action by his wailingly desperate cries for . . . a drink.

He couldn't say it, but he was thirsty. You gave him his drink and he settled back to sleep, cozy in his bed, content. You went back to bed, heart racing from the lights, the zing of the microwave bell, the chill of the floors on your bare feet, your mind wide awake.

On the weekend, while he naps, you do the dishes and then you grab a nap too, falling into a stupor while supplicating the gods regarding your child: Let him not wake up yet. Just one hour of silence. Please.

Don't misconstrue. You rise to the occasion over and over again. Your child is helpless, and thankfully, amazingly, charming, when charming. He is your child, your beloved, the tiny existence for whom you are responsible. He wants you first, likes you best, needs you most. You find him endlessly fascinating, endlessly entertaining, even while he is endlessly needy and endlessly demanding, until he is able some day to let go. He is also endlessly lovable. You learn that a big part of loving is giving.

International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sanctions on Burma

The editorial "Sanctions on Burma" (March 25) misses the point of many of those opposed to sanctions and the resulting lack of engagement with Burma's government. The U.S. government has two equally important issues with Burma — human rights and narcotics trafficking. Burma is one of the world's leading producers of opium, which arrives in the United States as heroin.

Human rights advocates have undermined every attempt by the U.S. government to work with the Burmese on opium production and trafficking, arguing that any cooperation would appear to endorse the military regime.

While the editorial is correct in saying that "sanctions would cost American business little," it fails to note that sanctions will cost the taxpayers a lot: They are the ones who will have to deal with the increased amount of heroin that will end up on city streets.

THOMAS C. BRAMAN.
Brussels.

Is the human rights record of Burma, a nonentity in international trade and home to only modest American investment, really more odious than that of Nigeria, a major oil supplier and home to significant American investment and profits?

GERALD DIXON.
Geneva.

This editorial says that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi "would be Burma's elected leader had the government not annulled 1990 elections."

However, because of her marriage to a British subject, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not eligible for public office under the 1947 electoral code.

DAW MYA THEIN.
Manila.

Rowdiness in the Air

Regarding "Abuse at 35,000 Feet: Airlines Take Aim at Rowdy Passengers" (May 2):

The most telling phrase in this article described "passengers herded into cramped seats, lubricated with too many drinks and denied the freedom to smoke."

When you add intentional overbooking, failure to enforce rules limiting carry-on baggage and indifferent service, it's a wonder there aren't more problems.

Better service and more attention to quality of flight issues may be more effective than printed warnings and handcuffs in preventing rowdy behavior.

ROCCO TOMANELLI.
Lens, Belgium.

As a passenger, I say that if we are treated like animals, then we have the right to behave like animals!

ADRIAN KUNZLE.
New York.

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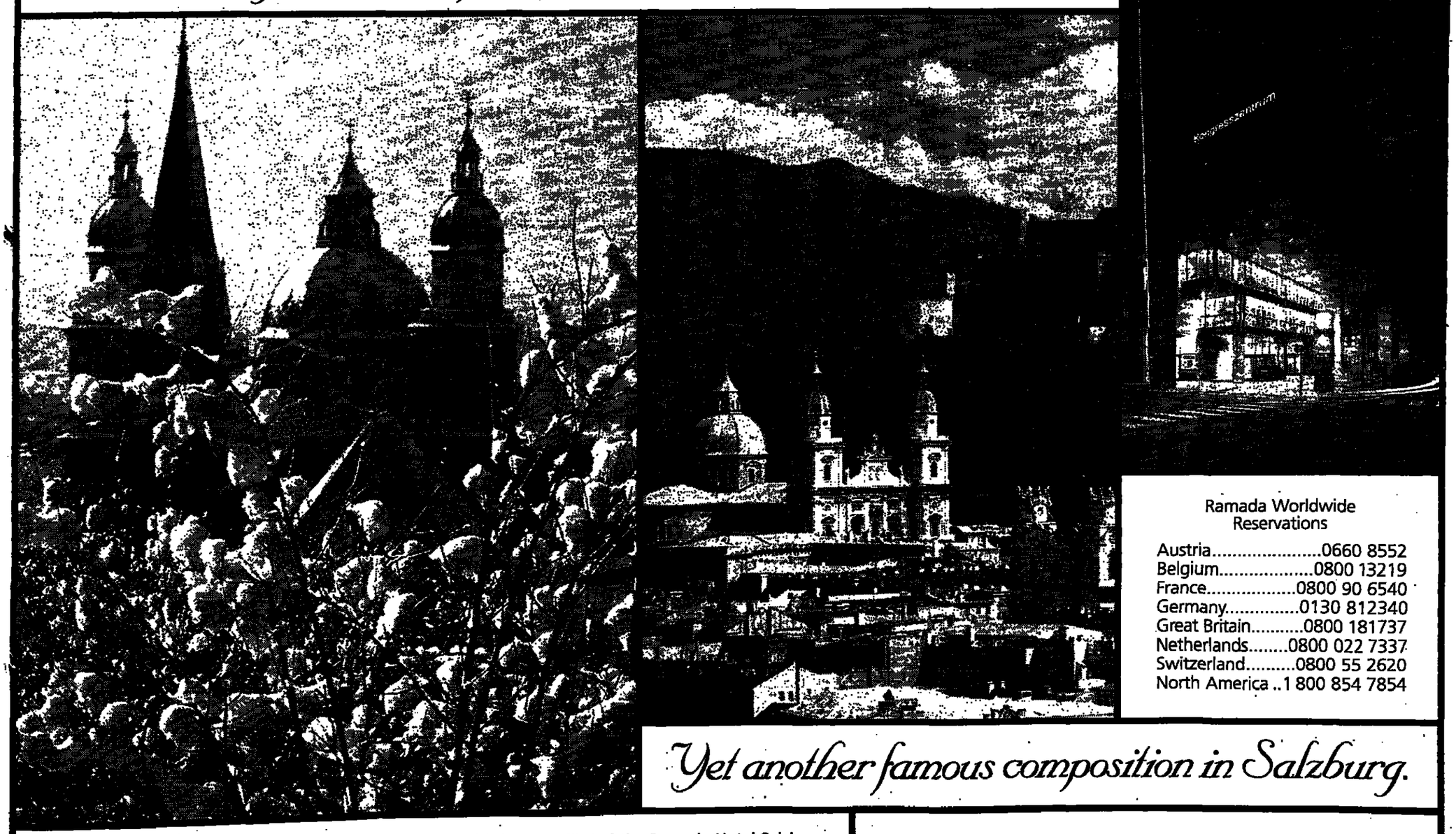

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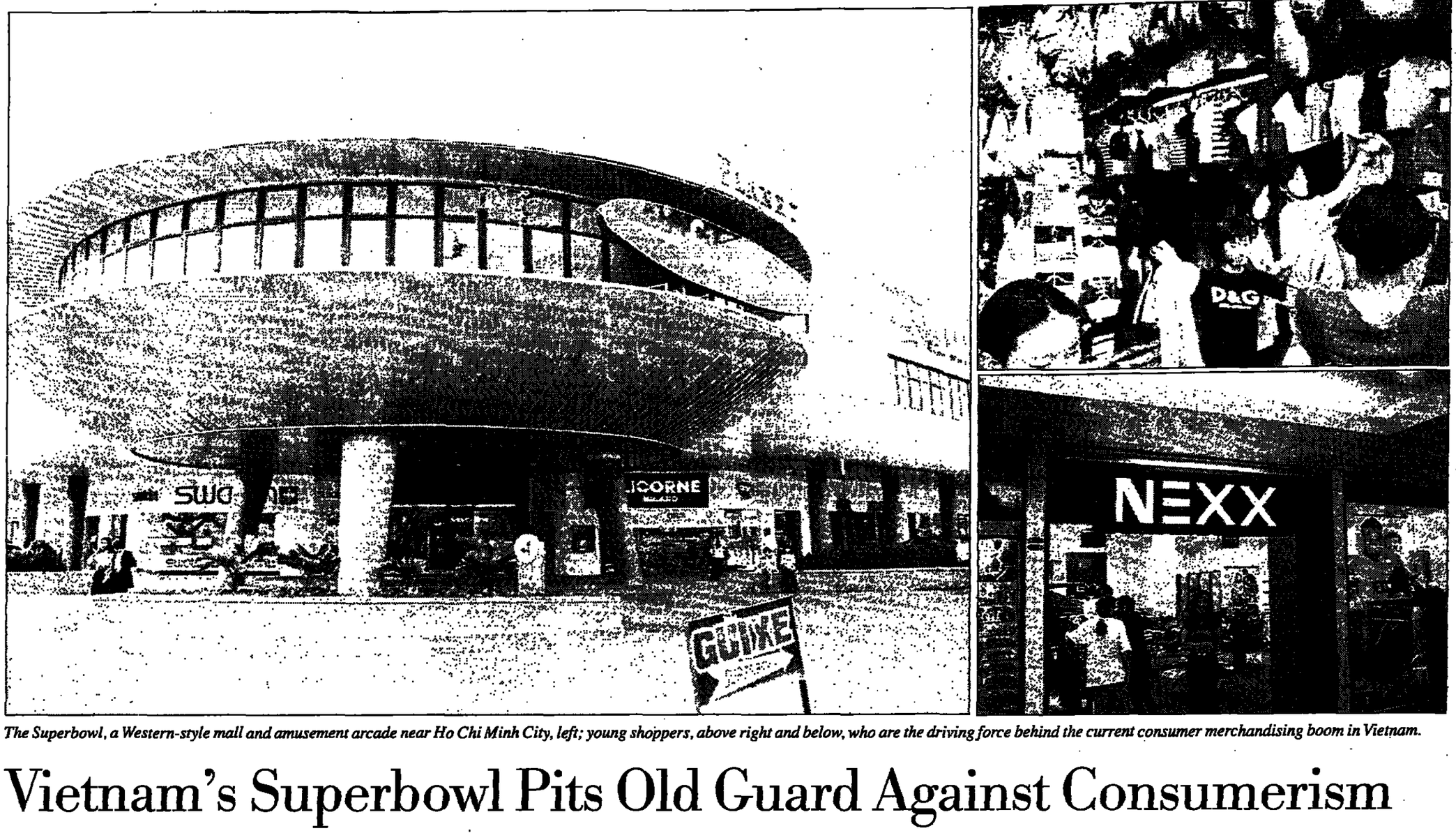


The Superbowl, a Western-style mall and amusement arcade near Ho Chi Minh City, left; young shoppers, above right and below, who are the driving force behind the current consumer merchandising boom in Vietnam.

Vietnam's Superbowl Pits Old Guard Against Consumerism

By Carey Zesiger

HO CHI MINH CITY — An alien *spacecraft has come to rest on a va*cant lot near Tan Son Nhat airport. The saucer-shape and sleek, modern design have made it a monument of the New Saigon. Not everyone knows quite what to make of this Unidentified Foreign Object, but for Vietnam's young and restless, the Superbowl is the hottest game in town.

A state-of-the-art bowling alley, fast food emporium and shopping mall rolled into one, the Superbowl is a temple of consumerism transplanted to this bastion of socialism. It has been a huge hit with the public, but was not an easy sell to the government.

Most government officials "didn't really understand," said Arthur Tay, chairman of Singapore's SUTL Leisure. Aside from those Vietnamese who had traveled abroad and witnessed bowling's popularity in other countries, few knew what to make of Tay's project or this peculiar sport. To show them, his company organized a *special trip to Singapore so his partners in the* Ministry of Defense could bowl a few frames and see for themselves.

Even then, it took some persuading. To the country's authorities, bent on development and industrialization, Tay's idea of a good time may have seemed, well, a bit frivolous. After all, what could be more alien to Vietnam's state planners and old-guard revolutionaries than a Western-style mall and amusement arcade?

PHENOMENAL Tay had to overcome government concerns about gambling and "social evils" to win approval for the project, but his success has repaid him handsomely for his troubles. In a city where there were few entertainment options on a Saturday night, the bowling alley's popularity has been little short of phenomenal. "What else can you do?" Tay asked, "Sing karaoke or watch TV."

Forget marketing. In its first nine months, the *Superbowl's main headache was crowd-control.* Families, couples, and businessmen lined up or called days in advance to book lanes — paying about $4 a head to bowl. Others wandered into the center's boutiques and fast-food restaurants.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg, says Michael Porter of MBL (Market Behavior Limited), a London-based market research firm. He believes the Superbowl is riding a groundswell of urban spending on lifestyle and luxuries. "In many ways the success of the Superbowl has tapped a huge pent-up desire," he says, "It really highlights that they've been starved for consumerism."

Nearly 4,000 people pass through the doors on a daily basis, counting attendance for the disco and karaoke. Less than a third of these will put on bowling shoes and hurl balls down the lanes, but this still adds up to about $250,000 to $300,000 a month. The rest of the visitors drop a few dollars on video games, snooker, soft drinks or ice cream.

But not everyone is thrilled by this conspicuous consumption. The Superbowl's blend of fun and fancy shops has brought charges of exploitation from the local state-run media. At the press conference for the mall's opening, Tay was forced to defend himself against charges that he was out to cater to the rich and "make Vietnamese poor." *Such reports miss the mark, he says.*

THE government views the new wave of consumerism with a certain amount of mistrust.

"I think the government is quite frightened by it," Porter said. "Coming out of a very austere economy and a centrally planned way of life, the masses can become very materialistic, very fast. I think they are very worried by it."

Such fears are reflected in the government's continuing campaign against "social evils," which encompasses everything from sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll to gambling. And while the stated *purpose of the campaign is to protect* Vietnamese culture and morals, a bias against all things foreign sometimes creeps into the rhetoric.

Meanwhile, the generation gap between youths and their war-generation parents continues to widen. It is the teens and twentysomethings whose tastes and preferences are driving *much of the current spending boom*, a development Porter likens to the growth of American consumer society between the Great Depression and the 1960s, only much faster.

"It is similar to Hong Kong where they are very brand conscious," he said. "The Vietnamese will follow that path."

Carey Zesiger is a free-lance writer who lives in Vietnam.

In London, the Casinos of Mayfair Are on a Roll

By David Spanier

LONDON — In the spirit of swinging London, the casinos of Mayfair are on a roll. Drinking hours have been extended from 11 P.M. to 3 A.M. and, as everyone knows, alcohol has a wonderfully loosening effect on gamblers' self-control. Even better for visitors to London who fancy a flutter, the two-day waiting period for players to join a casino has been cut to just 24 hours.

The changes are the first in an extensive process of government "deregulation" of casinos after a long period of strict, and some would say, excessive control. Tony Blair's new government is committed to liberalization of the regulations. Still to come is a move to install slot machines in large numbers, *bringing London into line with the* rest of Europe. In the bigger casinos, new electronically linked machines will pay out jackpots as high as £1 million ($1.6 million), competing with the runaway National Lottery.

THE BRITISH SNAG The British are a nation of gamblers. The only snag, as casino owner John Aspinall noted years ago, is that the British aristocracy, who used to set the pace, don't have any money left.

Today the big players come mainly from the Orient, with Malaysia, Indonesia and other Pacific Rim countries predominating, plus a significant component from the traditional region of casino cash, the Middle East.

London is the only capital city in the world with serious gambling. Its 21 casinos recorded a "drop," or money gambled, of £1.7 billion last year, of which the casino take was well over £300 million.

Pretty nice going for a business whose operation is based, not on manufacturing or providing an essential service, but on supplying green baize and plastic chips.

But like a secret society, the casinos' treasure is hidden from public gaze. A visitor might walk day and night around Mayfair, where the high rollers play, without spotting Les Ambassadeurs on Park Lane, *Crockford's and Aspinall's on Curzon* Street, or the Ritz Club and the Colony around the corner. Only their habitues know where they are. The reason is that British gaming law prohibits casinos from advertising or promoting themselves in any way. This, too, is slated to change under deregulation.

In the popular imagination, colored by television images of nerveless gamblers and slinky bimbos, casinos are seen as places of high excitement. Not necessarily so. Instead of whooping it up at the dice table, as in the movie "Casino," no one shouts or even raises a voice in the salons of Mayfair. (Bad form, old chap.) The players merely murmur. The excitement is all internalized.

For what the high rollers want, and what the casinos pride themselves on giving, is *discretion.* What's more, the highest of these high rollers, men with millions to win or lose, do not rub shoulders with the regular clientele. They play in luxurious rooms set apart from the main gaming area, with their own gaming tables — roulette, blackjack, *punto banco* (as baccarat is known) — and their own dining facilities. Some of these players will spend 12 or 14 hours at a stretch in such private gambling rooms.

WHAT chance do they have, with the *odds stacked against them, playing* hour after hour? Wrong question. Such players, who will bet up to £2,000 on a single number at roulette as well as bets on all the adjoining numbers, or up to £50,000 on a hand at blackjack, are not there to win in the vulgar sense that ordinary gamblers play. They are there to indulge a deeper fantasy, of "deep play," or gambling for gambling's sake.

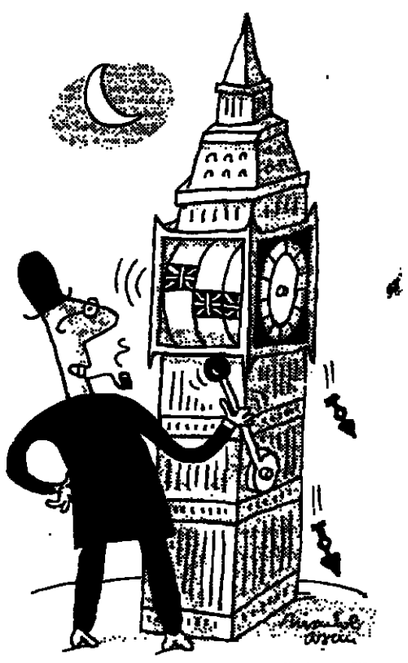
Such players are usually accompanied by their retinue, perhaps 40 strong. Family supporters who like to gamble make their own lower-level bets but, dutifully, always on the same side as the leader. The gambler in chief may pick up a check for a couple of million at the end of a lucky night. But if he enjoys the experience enough to come back, which is every casino's intent, he is unlikely to hang on to his winnings very long.

RIVAL BIDS

In the intense competition to attract high rollers, London Clubs International, the most glittery casino group, has bid for the properties of Capital Corporation, its main rival. The outcome is now on hold, pending a ruling by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. If successful, London Clubs International would control almost the entire high-roller market in London, like a *private game, and confirm its place as the biggest* player in Europe. It is still possible for another bidder to step in.

In any case, it looks as if the winning streak for Mayfair's casinos will continue. The capital is buzzing with visitors ahead of the summer season. And swinging London is in the mood to celebrate.

David Spanier is a free-lance journalist based in London.



Nicolae Asciu/IHT

DINING

Return of a Paris Fish Bistro

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When the burly Gerard Allemandou opened his tiny fish bistro on the Rue Daguerre in 1980, it was one of the hottest tickets in town. Much like the famed Minchelli brothers of Le Duc and the brother-sister team of Gilbert and Maguy Le Coze of Le Bernardin, Allemandou wowed us with fish and shellfish so sparkling fresh we believed we were at ocean's edge, not steps from a Left Bank metro. What's more, his dogmatic "do-the-least-possible" style of cuisine brought us out of the hollandaise-sole meuniere-friture syndrome. Soon, La Cagouille, which resembled a seedy corner café, had a Michelin star and diners fought for each table.

La Cagouille moved on to modern quarters in 1988 and for several years held its own, still astonishing us with modesty and simplicity, as we burned our fingers on the chef's *moules brule-doigts*, mussels grilled directly on the stove top. We devoured freshly fried whole anchovies, raved over the grilled mackerel with mustard sauce and pan-seared scallops bathed in a warm vinaigrette.

Then the decline began: Service became nonexistent, the owner was often absent, prices soared and the restaurant's freshness seemed to have withered. Even Michelin had had enough and yanked the star.

Several recent visits suggest that Allemandou and his staff are back in form, serving delicately smoked eel from France's southwest, giant fresh gambas from Africa and tiny Breton turbot grilled with aplomb.

Allemandou's appetite for wine is as serious as his passion for food, and so you're likely to find wines such as the seldom-seen white Chignin Bergeron from Raymond Quenard in the Savoie, well-priced at 100 francs. Today's meal prices also are easier to digest: The 250-franc menu includes half a bottle of wine.

FOCUS ON THE FOOD On sunny days, a table on the terrace overlooking the modern apartment block designed by Ricardo Bofill is a pleasant place to sit. The bistro's sterile interior remains as simple and unadorned (and frankly unappealing) as ever. Keep your mind on the food and you shouldn't be disappointed.

La Cagouille, 10/12 Place Brancusi, Paris 14: tel: 01 43 22 09 01; fax: 01 45 38 57 29. Open daily. Credit card: Visa and American Express. Menus at 150 (not including wine) and 250 francs (including wine.) A la carte, 245 to 300 francs, including service but not wine.

50TH CANNES FESTIVAL

Glitter as Usual, but Please Hold the Diamonds

By Janet Maslin
New York Times Service

CANNES, France — Metal detectors at screenings and "I Survived the 50th Festival" T-shirts are new items here this year. And forget the diamonds, darling. The accessory of choice is the speedboat for escaping *Croisette traffic jams. That was how Bruce Willis* and the rest of the delegation from "The Fifth Element," the splashy, kinky-looking sci-fi adventure that opened the Cannes International Film Festival on Wednesday, made an exit from the chilly press conference that greeted their film's arrival.

The extravagant "Fifth Element" unfolds in *high comic book style, and the crowd doubtless has* something different in mind.

"I'll tell you what I really wanted to say to them," said one of the seafaring passengers, Gary Oldman, who plays a villain with a futuristic Hitler hairdo and a Ross Perot accent. Oldman also directed his own film, "Nil by Mouth," which was shown in competition on Thursday.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Oh, well: Questions at the session were the sort for which this event is justly famous. Willis was asked when he planned to do Shakespeare (hmm), whether he expected the film to be successful (guess) and whether he enjoyed kissing his leading ladies (oh, come on).

Gamely, and for lack of better prompting, he joked about the differences between doughnuts and scones on American and English movie sets. And this despite the fact that he had hoped to explain how and why his "Fifth Element" character saves the world. "Ask us about the film, come on!" he urged *the crowd. No dice.*

Milla Jovovich, who spends much of the film in a white outfit that has been nicknamed the Band-Aid, sat beside Jean Paul Gaultier (whose neo-bondage costumes are among the film's garish selling points) and managed to describe her role as "an inspiration for not just me but every single *person in the world." Jovovich showed off a silver* Galliano gown that was not remotely out of place on a white Riviera motorboat. She later showed up in the equivalent of another Band-Aid for the gala opening-night screening.

Willis kept his considerable cool with an audience that seemed to forget what a really unfortunate Cannes opening (e.g. "City of Lost Children," the grim sci-fi spectacle two years ago) can be like.

"Look, it's just a way of getting a little ink on what the picture's really about," he said en route back to his hotel.

But were there dangers in facing the huge, carnivorous, restless press contingent that has assembled in honor of this festival's birthday celebration? "You know what's a risk?" Willis asked. "It's walking across the street in New York City. That's a risk. This is just movies."

Movies and then some, during this publicity-mad anniversary festival: In addition to a contingent of the world's great filmmakers, the Spice Girls and a 6-foot-long fanged condom (courtesy of "Killer Condom," the latest brainstorm from happy, bottom-feeding Troma Entertainment) are among the extras expected here soon. And in terms of diversity, viewers here can find anything from a 40-minute film, "Ghosts," starring Michael Jackson to dramas about Queen Victoria, Siegfried Sassoon and Primo Levi. Random, unofficial selections from the marketplace screenings include "Gummo" and "American Beer."

CANNES'S 50th also features a special fireworks display, a concert performance of movie theme music and a perfectly emblematic new event: the "Golf and Cinema" tournament. This is, according to the festival's president, Pierre Viot, "an attractive idea because meetings around the green can be as productive as in a palace hotel or at the Palais des Festivals." Attractive and peaceful, since it will be held well out of town. With or without speedboats, Cannes itself has begun at full throttle, ready to celebrate its birthday in high, glittering style while it reminds visitors that melee is indeed a French word.

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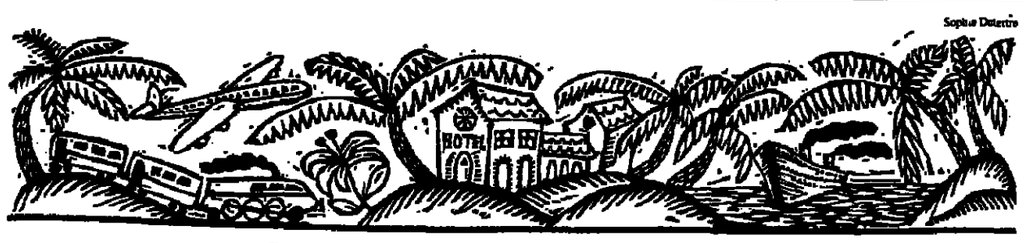


GOOD TRAVEL DEALS

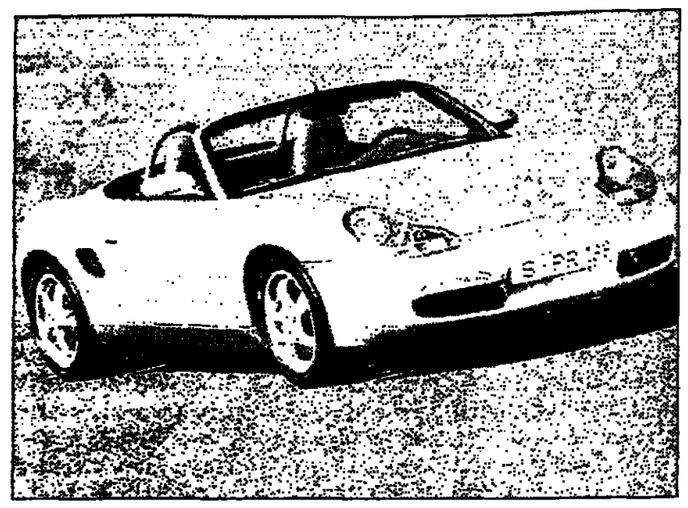
AIRLINES		
AIR CHINA	*Britain to Hong Kong*	*First- and business-class round-trip fares of £2,022 and £1,299 ($3,270 and $2,100). Economy fares from £625. New route over northern China cuts flight times on weekly Boeing 747-400 flights by 90 minutes. Free regional connecting flights with British Midland to London. Air China, tel: (44-171) 630 7792.*
AIR UK/EVA AIR	Britain to Dubai	Round-trip fare of £224 ($360) from London City Airport to Amsterdam on Air UK, connecting with Eva Air to Dubai. Six- to 30-day validity. Travel must start by June 13. Trailfinders, tel: (44-171) 938-3939.
BRITISH AIRWAYS	France to United States and Canada	Round-trip "Billet Doux" fares for departures from Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nice or Toulouse cost 2,750 francs ($470) to New York or Chicago; 3,610 francs to Miami and 3,450 francs to Montreal or Toronto. Certain conditions apply.
EL AL	France to Israel	Weekend break in Tel Aviv for 3,200 francs ($550) per person for two people traveling together includes round-trip flight from Paris, two nights with breakfast at the Tel Aviv Sheraton. From May 19 to June 18. Tickets must be paid for by May 18.
JAPAN AIRLINES	Europe to Japan	Mileage Bank members in Europe, Middle East and Africa can earn 50 percent bonus miles in any class. Until June 30.
HOTELS		
CHELSEA HOTEL	London	"London Event Package" for £85 ($137) per person for a one-night stay in double room includes English breakfast, two-course evening meal and taxi to your choice of event in the West End. Until Aug. 31.
GARDEN BEACH HOTEL	Juan-les-Pins, France	"Jazz a Juan" package for 3,600 francs ($620) for two people for two nights includes buffet breakfast, entry to Jazz Festival and chili con carne in the early hours. July 15 to July 31.
SHANGRI-LA HOTELS	Asia-Pacific	Added-value deal for guests paying the published rate includes limo transfers to airport, American breakfast, unlimited dry cleaning and laundry, free local calls, fax and long-distance calls at cost, checkout until 6 P.M.
SHANGRI-LA HOTELS	Asia-Pacific	Summer promotion offers up to 40 percent off regular room rates at 35 Shangri-La and Traders hotels in 11 countries. Until Aug. 31, Sept. 30 or Oct. 31, depending on the property.
TIM HOTELS	Paris	Two-night package for two people at choice of 21 hotels in central Paris for 1,000 francs ($170) includes buffet breakfasts; one-day passes to 60 museums and monuments; two-day Metro and SNCF passes for travel in Paris and near suburbs. June 22 to Aug. 31.

Although the IHT carefully checks these offers, please be forewarned that some travel agents may be unaware of them, or unable to book them.

THE CAR COLUMN

A Creative Urge: The Boxster

By Gavin Green



MOST one-hit wonders don't last long. But Porsche, which had its first (and only) hit as a carmaker back in 1964, is not only still here, but prospering. And it's all due to the 911, which is 33 years old and still going strong.

On numerous occasions, the German company has tried to replace it, fearing its time had finally come. But each time — most notably when it launched the 928 in 1978 — buyers have spurned the newcomer, preferring the more characterful if less conventional charms of the old-timer.

The new Boxster is an obvious follow-up to the 911. It comes at a time when sales of affordable convertible sports cars are booming. The marvelous Mazda Miata, known as the MX-5 in Europe, proved the market existed. Now the German sporty big three (BMW, Mercedes and Porsche) are all in there, exchanging punches. Even the British maker MG, which virtually invented the affordable roadster market, is back.

The Old and the New

The Boxster carries over many 911 styling cues — its buglike roundness, its curvaceous fenders and its lowness. But mechanically it's all new. The engine may be a flat-six, but this motor is different. It's smaller and less powerful than the 911's engine, true to the Boxster's lower price and more mass-market aspirations. In keeping with its clean-sheet approach, the engine is sited in the middle of the car — between the cabin and the rear wheels — rather than out the back, keeping the rear bumper company. A mid-engine configuration is much better for handling.

It is a fabulous car to drive, the Boxster, the best in the class. It's brisker and sharper than the rival Mercedes SLK, prettier and faster than the BMW Z3. The engine has that same marvelous bellow that characterizes the 911: Hit the accelerator pedal and the motor trumpets like a bull elephant. The handling is almost hyperactively sensitive — the car wends its way down winding roads like a snake speeding through long grass — and the fabulous brakes and steering just add to the dynamic ensemble. The drop-down roof, fully electric apart from some manual work to tether it to the windshield, just adds to the thrills and to the raw sensations that are part of the character of the best sports cars.

THE cabin design is the biggest disappointment. The plastics are not of especially good quality and the switches are sited across the dash with all the ergonomic planning of shot fired from a blunderbuss. As with the 911, you buy a Boxster for the way the outside looks and for the way it drives, not for any particular enjoyment to be had from the cabin ambience.

Porsche's recent creative rush, incidentally, isn't over yet. The one-hit wonders from Stuttgart are set to revamp the 911 at the end of the year, further upgrading the old-timer. After all, if the unexpected happens and the market turns against the new Boxster, then at least there's the 911 to fall back on.

• Porsche Boxster. About $50,000. Flat-six engine, 2,480cc, 204 BHP at 6,000 rpm. Five-speed manual gearbox, five-speed automatic "Tiptronic" transmission optional. Top speed: 240 kph (149 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 6.9 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 10.2 liters/100 km.

Next: The Audi A6

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.

THE FREQUENT TRAVELER

Voilà! Carry-On Haute Cuisine

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

RETURNING from London to Nice on the last flight of the day with British Airways was a painful experience in both the physical and financial sense. Not only was I squeezed into an ergometrically challenged seat for slightly more than the cost of a round-trip to New York, but this was supper time; I was hungry and there was nothing edible to eat.

Having suffered this fate the week before, I refused the derisory collation, grabbed a drink, and ostentatiously enjoyed the smoked salmon sandwiches I'd just bought at Heathrow.

We all have views on airline food. But it invariably fails to match the promise of the glossy ads or the eloquent menus, expensively printed and endorsed by designer chefs, even in first or business class. I've often thought about packing a picnic on long-haul flights in the back of the plane, but never quite managed to summon sufficient chutzpah.

Why doesn't some entrepreneur institutionalize the idea by marketing executive lunch pails in departure lounges?

NEW OPTIONS No sooner had I thought of this than I am overtaken by events. For here comes Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts with "Gourmet Meals To Go" for departing guests "to replace the limited options of airline dining."

The program was initiated in November 1996 at the Four Seasons Los Angeles in Beverly Hills in response to "repeated requests from guests wanting to take popular items along with them." The service is now available at Four Seasons properties in Bali, Dallas, Houston, New York, Chicago and Newport Beach, California.

The Beverly Hills menus feature such delights as "grilled lobster panini with smoked peppers, arugula and garlic-basil aioli; antipasto of Italian cured smoked meats, grilled vegetables, cheese, roasted olives, marinated mushrooms and savory salads; southern fried chicken, homestyle cabbage cole slaw and sweet corn relish; a selection of Maki sushi rolls, sesame and soy sauces; tea-smoked duck salad, minted Asian vegetable slaw and chili-garlic vinaigrette."

There are several menus that cost from $9 to $25 and desserts around $8.50.

"These are all items I would enjoy on a flight," says Carrie Nahabedian, executive chef at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills.

The night before checkout, guests phone in their order to room service and their "meal to go" will be waiting for them on departure, along with the rest of their luggage. The Four Seasons' initiative has given at least one other hotel chain food for thought.

Frank Ansel, vice president food and beverage for Hyatt International in Chicago, says: "Airline food has a long way to go. Some airlines — especially long-haul, Asia to the U.S. or Europe — now realize that a lot of travelers just want something simple: a pot of noodles; snacks, sandwiches, fruit and so on. I think it can be much better done."

A Cut Above

Victor Grove, the customer service manager for PrivatAir, a charter airline, which prides itself as being "the world's most discreet and exclusive operator," in Geneva, says: "One of our regular clients, a European business tycoon, usually just wants a cheese board and a bottle of red wine. We also go out of our way for unusual meals. If an Arab prince asks for a whole rice-stuffed lamb, we'll certainly serve it to him and his guests."

Some of the best inflight food is served on regional airlines, especially those operating small single-cabin aircraft out of London City Airport to destinations in mainland Europe.

AirJet, which flies the BAe 146 "whisper jet" to Paris, regales "high-yield" business travelers with chilled soup of shellfish and spring vegetables with a dash of *anis vert*, and *foie gras de canard en gelee*. VLM, with services to Antwerp and Rotterdam, serves sandwich fillings such as salmon and chicken curry. And Crossair, which flies to 67 cities in Europe, is renowned for its inflight cuisine.

Moritz Suter, Crossair's president, is very much behind the sandwich philosophy. We are thinking of replacing hot and cold meals with a selection of sandwiches.

Which is roughly where we came in.

ARTS GUIDE

BELGIUM

Brussels
Musee d'Art Ancien, tel: (2) 508-3211, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To July 27: "Paul Delvaux, 1897-1994."

BRITAIN

London
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 494-5615, open daily. Continuing/ To June 8: "The Berlin of *George Grosz: Drawings, Watercolours and Prints, 1912-1930.*"

FRANCE

Paris
Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing/ To July 14: "Paris/Bruxelles — Bruxelles/Paris."

Versailles
Musee National du Chateau, tel: 01-30-84-74-00, closed Mondays. To July 13: "Versailles: Trois Siecles de Pastel." Portraits in pastel from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including works by La Tour and Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun.

GERMANY

Berlin
Martin-Gropius-Bau, tel: (30) 324-50-78, open daily. To July 27: "The Age of Modernism: Art in the 20th Century." Features 350 works by more than 100 artists that represent four facets of modernism: Reality and Distortion (Picasso, Matisse, Beckmann, Giacometti, Bacon and Baselitz); Language and Concept (Duchamp, Warhol, Beuys); Spirituality and Abstraction (Kandinsky, Mondrian, Fontana) and Dream and Myth (Dali, Balthus, Twombly).

Bonn
Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, tel: (228) 9171-200, closed Mondays. To Aug. 24: "German Photography: The Impact of a Medium, 1870-1970." The history of German photography documented with 300 pictures by 150 photographers from the fields of architecture, art, photojournalism, fashion, design and advertising.

ITALY

Venice
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, tel: (41) 520-6288, closed Tuesdays. To May 18: "George Grosz: The Berlin Years." Paintings, works on paper pamphlets, books and photographs focus on the German satirist's art and political activism during his early years in Berlin before he fled Nazi Germany for America in 1933.
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (41) 522-1375, open daily. Continuing/ To July 13: "Arte del '900: La Pittura Fiamminga e Olandese."

SPAIN

Bilbao
Museo de Bellas Artes, tel: (94) 424-27-99, closed Mondays. To June 30: "Del Vedutismo a las Primeras Avanguardias." A selection of 40 paintings and 4 Rodin sculptures from the collection of Baroness Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza.

UNITED STATES

New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3791, closed Mondays. To July 13: "Prints in the Age of Albrecht Durer and Lucas van Leyden." More than 150 engravings, etchings, woodcuts and illustrated books by Renaissance masters Albrecht Durer, Lucas van Leyden and their contemporaries.

CLOSING SOON

May 11: "Tiepolo und Die Zeichenkunst Venedigs im 18. Jahrundert." **Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne.**
May 11: "Tetsugoro Yorozu." **National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.**
May 11: "Exiles and Emigres: The Flight of European Artists from Hitler." **County Museum of Art, Los Angeles.**
May 11: "*Encounters with Modern Art:* Works from the Rothschild Family Collections." **Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia.**
May 11: "The Victorians: British Painting in the Reign of Queen Victoria, 1837-1901." **National Gallery of Art, Washington.**
May 11: "Adolph Menzel, 1815-1905: Das Labyrinth der Wirklichkeit." **Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin.**
May 11: "Georges de La Tour and His World." **Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas.**
May 11: "Violeta Parra: Hommage." **Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Paris.**

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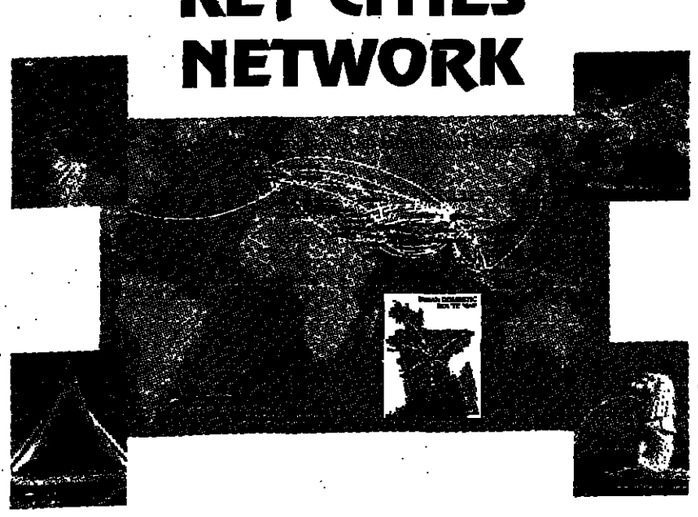

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Ford Says Cost Cuts Exceed Goal

Chief Executive Also Sees Profit for Europe

Bloomberg News

WINDSOR, Ontario — Ford Motor Co. shares rose Thursday after the carmaker's chief executive said the company would cut costs by "substantially" more than its goal of $1 billion.

The executive, Alex Trotman, also said he expected Ford's European operations to return to profit this year. Ford struggled with slow-selling models and overcapacity in Europe last year as it faced fierce competition.

At Ford's annual meeting in Windsor, across the border from Detroit, Mr. Trotman also predicted 1998 vehicle sales for the U.S. auto industry of 15.25 million to 15.5 million, little changed from the range of 15 million to 15.5 million that many analysts and the three U.S.-based automakers have forecast for 1997 sales. Mr. Trotman also said growth in U.S. gross domestic product would probably be 3 percent in 1998, with inflation remaining "low." Overall, he said he was "confident" about the U.S. economy.

Ford shares closed 75 cents higher, at $35.875.

Also on Thursday, Ford sold $500 million of 100-year bonds to take advantage of what the company called "attractive" market conditions.

The bonds were priced to yield 7.81 percent, or about nine-tenths of a percentage point more than the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond. Proceeds from the sale will be used to replace bonds that are maturing this quarter, Chris Vinyard, a Ford spokesman, said.

This is the first time Ford, the No. 2 U.S. automaker behind General Motors Corp., has sold 100-year bonds. Chrysler Corp., the No. 3 U.S. carmaker, sold $500 million of 100-year bonds in February.

Bonds with 100-year maturities have become popular among U.S. companies in recent years in response to the healthy economy. Borrowers are taking a chance to lock in interest rates that, in historical terms, are relatively low.

Ford's bonds are rated A1 by Moody's Investors Service Inc. and A-plus by Standard & Poor's Corp.

A NEW APPLE, IBM AT CORE — Dealers and journalists trying out an Apple notebook computer made by International Business Machines Corp. at a preview in Tokyo on Thursday. Page 17.

Tsugufumi Matsumoto/The Associated Press

Strong Sales and Weak Yen Propel Sony

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Sony Corp. said Thursday that its earnings more than doubled to record levels in its latest year, helped by the weak yen and strong sales of its PlayStation video game as well as of other consumer-electronics products.

Sony's results are among the first of many earnings reports over the next two weeks that are expected to show that Japan's export-oriented electronics and automobile companies have largely recovered from the slump of the last few years, thanks partly to their own restructuring and partly to the weakening of the yen, which makes Japanese products more competitive overseas.

Sony said its consolidated net income for the year that ended March 31 rose to 139.5 billion yen ($1.12 billion), a gain of 157 percent from the previous year and better than its peak earnings in the early 1990s. Sales rose 23.3 percent, to 5.66 trillion yen.

Some of Japan's strongest companies, such as Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co., Canon Inc. and TDK Corp., are also expected to report record earnings or otherwise extremely positive results.

Even troubled companies should do better, with Nissan Motor Co. expecting to report its first consolidated profit in five years and Mazda Motor Corp. hoping to break even.

Japan's consumer-electronics industry as a whole are expected to report growth of 82 percent in operating profit for the year, almost entirely because of the weaker yen, according to estimates by ING Baring Securities.

But overall, analysts say, with Japan's years of rapid growth behind it, not all companies will be able to prosper. The Japanese business world is dividing into winners — mainly internationally competitive companies — and losers, with stock prices diverging accordingly.

For Sony, which obtains about 70 percent of its revenue outside Japan, the yen's 15 percent decline against the dollar year over year provided a major boost.

Had currency rates not changed, the company said, its sales would have been the yen equivalent of $4.2 billion less than they were, and its operating income would have dropped 6.9 percent, rather than rising 57.4 percent.

But Sony has been helped in addition by its PlayStation video game. Sales of video-game hardware and software reached about 400 billion yen last year, Joseph Osha, a Tokyo-based analyst for Merrill Lynch, said.

Sony's revenue in Japan, where it is not helped by the weakening yen, still rose 15.3 percent.

The company's movie business registered an increase in sales of 37.8 percent, to 438.5 billion yen, partly because of currency rates.

Sony's earnings in the United States were dragged down by a substantial loss at Materials Research Corp., a company based in Orangeburg, New York, that Sony acquired in 1989 for about $60 million.

Materials Research, which makes equipment used to manufacture semiconductors, appears to have lost more than $100 million, and Sony said it might sell it.

At the close of trading Thursday, Sony's shares were up 90 yen at 9,720 yen on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

U S Airways Reduces Service to Trim Costs

Cutbacks Seen as Signal to Unions

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — U S Airways Inc. made good on recent warnings that it might start shrinking the airline by announcing Thursday that it would cease flying on many routes, close some unneeded facilities and ground 22 planes.

The airline, which is hamstrung by the highest cost structure in the industry, said that it would halt jet service in September to nine cities, thereby reducing its schedule by 6.5 percent against that of last year.

U S Airways said the steps were part of an "efficiency program," adding that they were needed regardless of whether ongoing negotiations with labor unions lead to a lower cost structure. If it reaches such a deal, the company has said it plans to grow.

The moves, however, sent a signal to labor leaders. In meetings with employees in recent weeks, Chief Executive Stephen Wolf has said that without a lower cost structure, he has no choice but to start cutting unprofitable operations.

The moves also suggested that there were considerable areas for easy savings — the airline, for example, has long operated maintenance bases and reservation offices in close proximity.

Airline executives would not say Thursday how many jobs would be eliminated. But in a message to members, the U S Airways pilots union said it had been notified that 103 of the 5,000 pilots would be laid off.

The airline said it would halt jet service to Cincinnati; San Antonio, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Austin, Texas; Bangor, Maine; Daytona Beach, Florida; Islip, New York; Melbourne, Florida, and Newburgh, New York.

The company also plans to close its Los Angeles pilot and flight attendant crew base by February, with affected employees being transferred to other bases.

The airline also said maintenance facilities in Roanoke, Virginia, and Greensboro and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, would be phased out by the end of next year except for the Winston-Salem landing gear shop, which will remain open. Reservations centers in Nashville, Tennessee, and Utica, New York, will be closed by Oct. 1.

Warren Buffett, chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., which owns 358,000 shares of U S Airways' convertible preferred stock, said he agreed with the moves.

"If the labor groups have the will," he said, "I know management has the ability to make this airline into the global competitor everyone wants it to be."

U S Airways' shares closed $2.75 higher at $34.50.

Labor makes up about 40 percent of U S Airways' total operating costs, the highest ratio in the industry, said Vivian Lee of Bankers Trust New York Corp., compared with about 31 percent at Continental Airlines Inc.

Ms. Lee said the recent onslaught of low-fare airlines in Eastern markets made it imperative that labor costs come down. In the last year, Southwest Airlines Inc., ValuJet Inc. and Delta Air Lines Inc.'s Delta Express have added flights on nearly 400 routes that directly compete with US Airways.

"Every time an airline comes in and wants to take a nibble off their route structure, U S Airways can't compete because they can't meet their fares," she said. "It's not enough just to lower cost a little bit. Their entire cost structure must come down."

The airline has had trouble convincing the Air Line Pilots Association of its competitive dilemma, especially since reporting record first-quarter earnings last month.

"Make no mistake, we remain committed and hopeful that our labor discussions ultimately will enable us to put in place a competitive cost structure," Mr. Wolf said. *(NYT, AP, Bloomberg)*

■ Senator Seeks to Warn EU

A U.S. senator urged President Bill Clinton to ensure that Boeing Co.'s proposed takeover of McDonnell Douglas Corp. would receive an "impartial" antitrust review by the European Union, AFX News reported from Washington.

"We are deeply concerned by recent public statements" by the European commissioner on competition, Karel Van Miert, Senator Slade Gorton said.

Mr. Van Miert said last month that he had "extremely deep concerns" about the consolidation and that it "remains to be seen" if a solution could be worked out, the Republican from Washington state said.

"Mr. Van Miert's public statements to audiences in Europe and the U.S. about his negative views of the proposed transaction are inappropriate, prejudicial and do grave harm to the due process that is the legal right of the involved parties," Mr. Gorton and the other senator from Washington, Patty Murray, wrote to Mr. Clinton.

INTERNATIONAL STOCKS

Betting on Bangkok's Bottoming Out

Bloomberg News

BANGKOK — Eric Sandlund started buying Thai stocks six months ago, arguing the worst-performing stock market of 1996 was too cheap to pass up.

Today, Thai stocks, shaken by mounting bad debts, a four-year property slump and the slowest economy in a decade, are about a third cheaper still. But the managing director of Prudential Portfolio Managers (Asia) Ltd. is not relenting.

"I'm tired of defending Thailand," Mr. Sandlund said. "We're not writing off the Thai economy, and any way you value it, this market is cheaper than it's been since the 1980s."

Mark Mobius, who manages the New York Stock Exchange-listed Templeton Emerging Market Fund, said in March that for all their troubles, Thai stocks looked attractive. Yet the economy, he said, probably would not recover for at least a year.

But few agree with Mr. Sandlund, whose firm manages more than $3 billion, and Mr. Mobius.

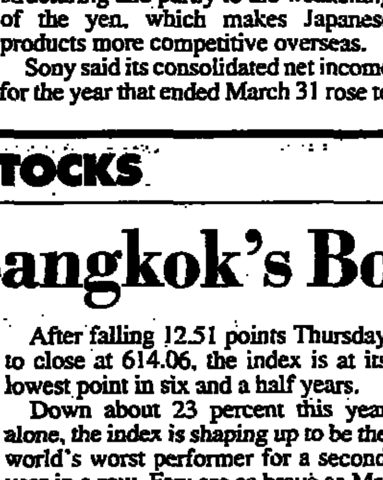
During the past year, fund managers have cut the percentage of Thai stocks in their Asian portfolios to about 3 percent from more than 13 percent a year ago, industry executives said, as a slowing economy hammered corporate profits.

Those who remained watched the benchmark SET Index fall by more than half and the market lose about $32 billion of its value.

After falling 12.51 points Thursday to close at 614.06, the index is at its lowest point in six and a half years.

Down about 23 percent this year alone, the index is shaping up to be the world's worst performer for a second year in a row. Few are as brave as Mr. Sandlund, who says the Thai economy — and stocks — are ready for a recovery.

Thai stocks are certainly cheaper



than they were a year ago: They trade at about 12 times their earnings per share, down from a price-earnings ratio of 17 a year ago.

But for many investors, the questions remain when and how quickly the country's property market and economy will recover and how long it will take for that recovery to shore up corporate profits.

Signs of a turnaround remain elusive. The government said Wednesday that tax revenue was below its projections, adding that the country was in danger of running its first budget deficit in a decade. A shortfall would disrupt efforts to cut interest rates and might prompt officials to cut projected spending for a second time in three months.

"The cut will curb economic growth," said Kittiyarn Mangkorndin, an analyst at Ocean Securities & Finance Co. "Then everybody's profits will be slashed — not good news, indeed."

A developer, Natural Park PCL, said this week that one of its units had stopped paying interest and principal on some of its debt.

The announcement followed plans publicized last month by Land & Houses PCL, one of the country's biggest developers, to raise 5 billion baht ($191.7 million) by selling equity and debt, showing that even the biggest real estate companies are strapped for cash.

In March, the stock exchange took the unprecedented step of briefly suspending trading in all banks and finance companies, and the central bank ordered the companies to increase their reserves against bad loans by as much as 50 percent. Many of these companies reported shrinking profits or widening losses.

See STOCKS, Page 15

Fuji to Expand Its Plant in U.S.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ELMSFORD, New York — Intensifying its battle with Eastman Kodak Co., Fuji Photo Film Co., which already has U.S. operations that manufacture cameras and provide photo-finishing services, now plans to make film in the United States.

The Japanese company said Thursday it would spend $200 million to expand its plant in Greenwood, South Carolina, to make 35mm film. The expansion will also increase Fuji's capacity to make color photographic paper; 100 jobs will be created. The latest venture will bring Fuji's investment in South Carolina to more than $1 billion.

Fuji's announcement comes as Kodak continues to press its claim that the U.S.-based company has been blocked from competing in the Japanese market. The trade dispute has gone to the World Trade Organization settlement panel in Geneva, and a decision is expected by October.

Executives at Kodak declined to comment on Fuji's plans.

Fuji said the expansion would allow it to shorten shipping times and improve customer service.

(NYT, AP, Bloomberg)

New McCaw Venture Lures 3 From AT&T

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — AT&T Corp. said Thursday that three executives at its mobile-phone business were quitting to join a new venture aimed at helping companies compete in local-phone markets.

The new venture, called OneComm LLC, is being formed by Craig McCaw and will provide management and strategic advice to companies seeking to offer local-phone service. Mr. McCaw built the largest U.S. cellular company, McCaw Cellular Communications Inc., before selling it to AT&T Corp. for $11.5 billion in 1994.

The departing AT&T executives are Steve Hooper, president and chief executive of AT&T Wireless; Wayne Perry, vice chairman of AT&T Wireless, and Gerald Salemme, the mobile-phone company's vice president for federal-government affairs.

AT&T promoted Daniel Hesse, 43, a business-development executive, to succeed Mr. Hooper as chief of the wireless division.

AT&T, the dominant long-distance phone company in the United States, said it would work with OneComm as it expanded into local-phone service.

But the resignations of the wireless unit's senior team dealt a setback to AT&T's mobile-phone ambitions. While its wireless business is America's largest, with more than 7 million customers, it faces growing competition from smaller entrants as well as established competitors.

"There is a negative aspect" to the departures, said Mark Lowenstein, an analyst at Yankee Group, a market-research concern in Boston. The executives, he said, were "experienced people" who led AT&T Wireless through its "growth stage."

AT&T shares closed 12.5 cents lower, at $32.50.

The executives said they had left AT&T to return to a start-up company. "We're entrepreneurs at heart, and we believe that opening up the local markets to competition is the most important effort in telecommunications today," Mr. Perry said.

While OneComm does not currently own any local-phone networks, Mr. McCaw owns a majority of Nextlink, a local-phone company based in Bellevue, Washington. In the first quarter, Nextlink's sales rose 87 percent from a year earlier, to $10.1 million. Nextlink has 11,300 phone lines.

The resignations also came just two months after the AT&T unveiled a wireless technology that could save it billions of dollars in fees to the so-called Baby Bells each year to complete calls.

William Deatherage, an analyst at Bear, Stearns & Co., said AT&T could license the new wireless technology to OneComm in the future.

He said he could foresee OneComm and the three departing executives "working with AT&T and being part of the wireless local-loop effort at AT&T."

The local loop is the part of the phone network that connects a phone company's central office, which contains switching equipment, to the customer's home or business.

(Bloomberg, AP)

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

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Frankfurt	1.7219	2.8103	—	0.2964	0.1011*	0.8899	4.8455*	1.1797	1.3764*	1.248	1.1848*
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Madrid	144.57	233.907	84.435	25.031	8.543*	75.051	4.0914	99.738	116.805*	104.571	—
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New York (b)	—	1.620	1.7083	5.763	1,692.00	1.9223	35.26	1.445	123.75	1.3863	144.57
Paris	5.7979	9.407	3.3738	—	0.3409*	2.9991	0.1635	3.9796	4.6406*	4.195	3.996*
Tokyo	125.10	209.94	72.67	21.56	0.735	64.60	3.522	85.71	—	90.62	0.861
Toronto	1.3868	2.2465	0.8117	0.2466	0.0821*	0.7213	0.3933*	0.9594	1.1206*	—	0.961*
Zurich	1.456	2.3849	0.8475	0.2512	0.0856*	0.7537	4.1084*	—	1.1679*	1.0538	1.0039*
1 ECU	1.1405	0.6963	1.9509	6.6123	1,939.52	2.2047	40.4494	1.6615	142.489	1.5762	165.47
1 SDR	1.3705	0.8369	2.3598	7.9459	2,330.69	2.6494	48.6839	2.0016	171.721	1.884	198.843

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*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9986	Greek drac.	272.53	Mex. peso	7.917	S. Afr. rand	4.4725
Australian $	1.2847	Hong Kong $	7.7450	N. Zealand $	1.4596	S. Kor. won	892.70
Austrian sch.	12.087	Hung. forint	182.26	Norw. krone	7.098	Swed. krona	7.726
Brazil real	1.0648	Indian rupee	35.85	Phil. peso	26.36	Taiwan $	27.68
Chinese yuan	8.3238	Indo. rupiah	2429.75	Polish zloty	3.16	Thai baht	26.07
Czech koruna	30.61	Irish £	0.6641	Port. escudo	171.99	Turkish lira	136055.
Danish krone	6.5455	Israeli shek.	3.4047	Russ ruble	5757.00	UAE dirham	3.6705
Egypt. pound	3.3952	Kuw dinar	0.3041	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	480.00
Fin. markka	5.1657	Malay. ring.	2.5075	Sing. $	1.4435		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6155	1.6170	1.6162	Japanese yen	123.19	122.61	122.08
Canadian dollar	1.3795	1.3768	1.3739	Swiss franc	1.4460	1.4399	1.4353
Deutsche mark	1.7087	1.7047	1.7010				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo).

Libid-Libor Rates

May 8

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 11/16 - 5 13/16	3 - 3 1/4	1 7/16 - 1 9/16	6 1/4 - 6 3/8	3 1/4 - 3 3/8	7/16 - 9/16	4 - 4 1/8
3-month	5 13/16 - 5 15/16	2 15/16 - 3 1/16	1 7/16 - 1 9/16	6 3/8 - 6 1/2	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	7/16 - 9/16	4 1/16 - 4 3/16
6-month	5 7/8 - 6	3 1/16 - 3 3/16	1 15/16 - 2 1/16	6 1/2 - 6 3/4	3 7/16 - 3 9/16	9/16 - 5/8	4 1/16 - 4 3/16
1-year	6 5/16 - 6 3/8	3 3/16 - 3 3/8	1 7/8 - 2 1/8	6 15/16 - 7 1/16	3 1/2 - 3 5/8	11/16 - 13/16	4 3/16 - 4 5/16

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8½	8½
Federal funds	5 5/8	5½
90-day CDs dealers	5.73	5.73
180-day CP dealers	5.72	5.69
3 month Treasury bill	5.07	5.08
1-year Treasury bill	5.58	5.61
2-year Treasury bill	6.34	6.34
5-year Treasury note	6.58	6.63
7-year Treasury note	6.63	6.68
10-year Treasury note	6.71	6.75
30-year Treasury bond	6.91	6.96
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.97	4.97
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.43	0.43
1-month interbank	0.53	0.53
3-month interbank	0.54	0.54
6-month interbank	0.63	0.63
10-year Govt bond	2.70	2.66
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	Clsd.	3.10
1-month interbank	–	3.20
3-month interbank	–	3.22
6-month interbank	–	3.25
10-year Bund	–	5.74
Britain		
Bank base rate	6¼	6¼
Call money	6 3/16	6¼
1-month interbank	6 5/16	6 5/16
3-month interbank	6 7/16	6 7/16
6-month interbank	6¾	6⅝
10-year Gilt	7.07	7.11
France		
Intervention rate	3.10	3.10
Call money	Clsd.	3 5/16
1-month interbank	–	3¼
3-month interbank	–	3⅜
6-month interbank	–	3½
10-year OAT	–	5.67

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich		Closed	
London	342.40	343.75	+2.45
New York	342.50	344.70	+2.30

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of State for Administrative Reform
Council for Development and Reconstruction
Invitation for Bids

1- The Lebanese Government has received a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Administrative Rehabilitation Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for procuring Office Technology Products for various ministries and agencies.
2- The Ministry of State for Administrative Reform and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), representing the Lebanese Government, now invite sealed bids from eligible suppliers for the supply of Personal Computers, Servers, Hubs, License for Microsoft Software, Printers and U.P.S's.
3- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain further information and examine the bidding documents at the headquarters of: The Council for Development and Reconstruction - Tallet El Serail - Beirut Central District - Facsimile: (01) 864494 - 647947 - Tlph. (961-1) 643980/1/2/3 - Beirut - Lebanon
4- Starting 8th May 1997 a complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US$ 500 in the form of a banker's certified check in the name of the CDR.
5- Bids must be delivered to the CDR headquarters on or before 12:00 hrs local time on Wednesday 25th June 1997.
6- Bids will be opened in a public session at 12 hrs local time on 25th June 1997 at the CDR headquarters.

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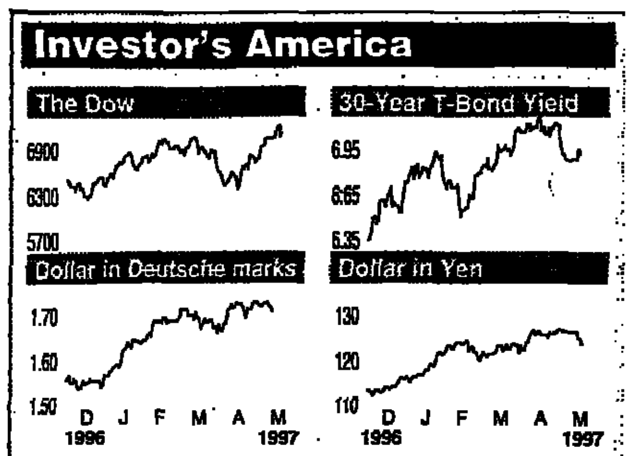

Exchange	Index	Thursday @4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	7136.62	7085.65	+0.72
NYSE	S&P 500	819.91	815.62	+0.53
NYSE	S&P 100	802.86	798.88	+0.50
NYSE	Composite	426.63	424.95	+0.40
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1330.69	1322.92	+0.59
AMEX	Market Value	571.85	570.50	+0.24
Toronto	TSE Index	6171.90	6112.50	+0.97
São Paulo	Bovespa	10436.23	10179.65	+2.52
Mexico City	Bolsa	3817.81	3775.02	+1.13
Buenos Aires	Merval	727.60	724.11	+0.48
Santiago	IPSA General	5369.92	5351.03	+0.35
Caracas	Capital General	6496.97	6498.08	-0.02

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Static Over New Telephone Rates

Critics Say Commission Hasn't Tackled Subsidies Problem

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The Federal Communications Commission's steps to reshuffle billions of dollars of telephone rates — raising prices for some services and lowering them for others — was the most sweeping effort yet to set the ground rules for a coming battle in telecommunications in the United States.

The new rules, which were approved unanimously Wednesday, will generally keep a lid on local phone rates for consumers while lifting rates for businesses. Long-distance rates for all customers will decline by 5 percent to 15 percent, under a related agreement between the commission and AT&T Corp., the nation's dominant long-distance provider.

But some lawmakers and industry experts said the commission, in trying to appease all potential opponents of the plan, had fallen short of its stated mission: to strip decades of subsidies out of the nation's telephone industry and move it closer to a free-market model.

"The commission is doing less, and postponing it longer, than people ever expected," said Scott

NEWS ANALYSIS

Cleland, an analyst with Schwab Washington Research Group, an investment advisory firm.

The commission's chairman, Reed Hundt, said Wednesday that the new rules would deregulate the industry even as they promoted a cherished goal of the Clinton administration: connecting the United States' schools and libraries to the Internet.

However, Mr. Cleland said the commission had tackled only a fraction of the $23 billion in subsidies that support the industry.

Still, Wednesday's rules were a historic step in unraveling six decades of government regulation. And they elicited a generally approving response from consumer advocates and industry leaders.

"Our great fear was that as you opened telephone markets, there would be a big rate increase," said Gene Kimmelman, the co-director of Consumers Union, a lobbying group in Washington. "This sends the right message that we want to put downward pressure on rates."

Robert Allen, the chief executive of AT&T, said: "The FCC has crafted a good compromise that will result in tangible benefits for American consumers."

The commission's plan will:

- Cut the charges that long-distance carriers pay to local phone companies for access to their customers by $1.7 billion in 1997 and $18.5 billion over five years.
- Establish a fund to equip schools and libraries with high-speed connections to the Internet.
- Impose an additional fixed charge of $1.50 a month on second residential phone lines, and an extra $3 fixed charge on business lines to help the local companies recoup the lost access revenue.

Blue Chips Advance, But Rally Is Trimmed

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Thursday, but a late round of sell orders wiped out two-thirds of a rally in blue-chip issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 50.97 points higher at 7,136.62, but late program trading shaved 100 points off an earlier rally. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index finished up 4.29 at 819.91.

Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 7-to-6 ratio on the New York Stock exchange.

The market was supported by lower Treasury bond yields and optimism about corporate profits.

"We think in the next 12 months, the economy looks healthy, and corporate profits look healthy," said Rick Jandrain, director of equities at BancOne Investment Advisors Corp. Of the recent volatility in share prices, he said, "One minute the market's euphoric; the next minute, it's on its way to its funeral."

Just as Treasury bonds took the blame for Wednesday's decline, bonds led stocks higher Thursday. The price of the benchmark 30-year issue rose 12/32 point, to 96 6/32, taking the yield down to 6.93 percent from 6.96 percent Wednesday.

A surprisingly high number of unemployment claims last week suggested the economy was slowing enough to keep inflation at bay.

The Labor Department said the number of American workers applying for state jobless benefits held steady at a seasonally adjusted 347,000 last week, the highest since early January.

"Today's rally is as perplexing as yesterday's sell-off," said Joseph Batapaglia, chief investment officer at Gruntal & Co. "We are in a bullish environment for stocks based on good news in the economy and the availability of money for investment."

Analysts said investors also were cheered by the prospects for a cut in the capital-gains tax. After the stock market closed Wednesday, the Republican chairmen of the congressional tax-writing committees

U.S. STOCKS

said they would propose setting that day as the effective date for the gains-tax reduction.

Technology stocks were again a market leader. The Nasdaq composite index, a haven for computer companies, rose 7.88 points to 1,330.79.

"Fundamentally the group is very solid," said Ray Hirsch, technology group director for American Express Financial Advisors. He said renewed confidence in computer-related companies stems from last week's technology conference sponsored by Hambrecht & Quist, a San Francisco investment bank.

"That's what came through at the H&Q conference last week." Mr. Hirsch said. "Business was very solid in April. The trend of February and March continued in April. People came away feeling the first quarter wasn't a fluke."

Cisco Systems was the most actively traded U.S. stock, rising 2⅜ to 61⅜, its second straight gain after reporting earnings met analysts' expectations. Top chipmaker Intel closed up 3 at 158⅞, and Microsoft, the world's largest software writer, added ¾ to 116¼.

IBM surged 5⅜ to 167½ a day after giving its annual review and outlook to investors and analysts. Louis Gerstner, IBM's chairman, said product demand remained strong and that he was committed to increasing earnings.

Among weaker issues, Petsmart fell ¾ to 10⅛ in active trading after the pet supply company said mismanagement of its inventory and slower sales of its flea and tick products would hold first-quarter earnings below analysts' estimates.

Philip Environmental fell 2¾ to 12¾ on concern that the Canadian solid-waste and metal recycling company would have difficulty combining its recently announced acquisitions of Allwaste and Serv-Tech businesses.

Wal-Mart Stores rose ⅛ to 19⅛ after it said same-store sales rose about 6 percent in April from a year earlier. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

Very briefly:

Bre-X Claims It Was Defrauded

CALGARY, Canada (Combined Dispatches) — The chairman of Bre-X Minerals Ltd. filed a formal complaint with police alleging that his company was the victim of a massive fraud, police said Thursday, and the Toronto Stock Exchange has delisted the company.

David Walsh, chairman of the company that claimed to have discovered the world's richest gold deposit in the Indonesian section of the island of Borneo before the find was exposed as a hoax, did not name any alleged perpetrator of the fraud, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

The police and the Alberta and Ontario securities commissions have begun investigations that could lead to criminal prosecutions. *(AFP, AP)*

- **The Washington Post** and **The New York Times** reported drops in circulation. Daily circulation at the Post fell 15,000, to 818,231 in the six months ended March 31, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation. The Times's circulation was down 50,000, to 1,107,168.
- **International Business Machines Corp.** is to buy the 30 percent of the Advantis network services business it does not already own from **Sears Roebuck & Co.** for $450 million.
- **PNC Bank Corp.** is holding talks to acquire the securities company **Oppenheimer & Co.** for about $500 million.
- **Giddings & Lewis Inc.**'s board voted unanimously to spurn **Harnischfeger Industries Inc.**'s $631 million, or $19-a-share, takeover offer as inadequate.
- **Novellus Systems Inc.** is to pay $150 million for **Thin Film Systems**, a unit of **Varian Associates Inc.**, to try to increase its share of the market for semiconductor-making devices.
- **Exel Ltd.** agreed to buy a rival Bermuda-based property and casualty insurer, **GCR Holdings Ltd.**, for $637 million, or $27 a share. *WP, Bloomberg, AFP*

Gencor Links Up With Brazilian Miner

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JOHANNESBURG — Gencor Ltd., one of South Africa's top three mining companies, said Thursday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the new owners of Compagnia Vale do Rio Doce to develop the Brazilian company's vast natural resources.

The Brazilian government sold a 41.73 percent voting stake in CVRD on Wednesday for 3.34 billion reals ($3.1 billion) to a group led by Compagnia Siderurgica Nacional, Brazil's biggest steelmaker, which was sold by the government in 1992.

CVRD is the world's largest iron ore exporter, Latin America's biggest gold producer, and the owner of vast mining, forestry and transportation assets.

Gencor said it planned to complete details of an alliance "aimed at benefiting the shareholders of all parties and of CVRD."

"In the process," it said, "we will explore whether it makes sense for us to participate directly in the company." The agreement signed by Gencor "followed extensive discussions in the weeks leading up to the auction in which it became clear that there were many areas of mutual interest," the company said. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

Words From Japan's 'Mr. Yen' Push the Dollar Lower

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against other major currencies, particularly the yen, Thursday after comments from the official known as "Mr. Yen" stirred up fears of central bank intervention.

Eisuke Sakakibara, a Finance Ministry official widely referred to as Mr. Yen, said the past year's movements raised the chance the Japanese currency could strengthen, with the dollar falling as low as 103 yen.

That comment stoked fears that the Bank of Japan might buy yen to send the currency in that direction.

The dollar slid to 123.750 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 125.015 yen at the end of the day Wednesday.

"People are on tenterhooks about whether we will actually see any

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

intervention," Nigel Richardson, an economist at Yamaichi Securities, said. "People are aware there's a chance of some kind of intervention if they're really serious."

Japan's deputy finance minister, Tadashi Ogawa, also said he was concerned about the yen's "excessive" fall against the dollar this year. But he said Mr. Sakakibara's comments had not been meant to "predict the direction of foreign-exchange rates."

The dollar's slide against the yen also dragged it lower against European currencies, although the movement was exaggerated because many European markets were closed for the Ascension Day holiday, traders said.

The dollar also dropped to 1.7083 Deutsche marks from 1.7187 DM, to 5.7630 French francs from 5.7977 francs and to 1.4450 Swiss francs from 1.4585 francs. The pound advanced to $1.6200 from $1.6137.

"With markets in Europe closed, the dollar was subject to violent moves," said John Hazelton, chief currency trader at Manufacturers & Traders Trust Co. "If you had an ax to grind, you could have your way in this market."

The dollar has been on the defensive all week because of concern that the Bank of Japan, perhaps together with the U.S. and German central banks, will jointly act to stem its rise. A surge in Tokyo stocks early this week also gave the yen a boost. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The top 300 most active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	7072.81	7215.29	7056.75	7136.62	+50.97
Trans	2599.05	2638.19	2593.19	2617.23	+22.81
Util	222.61	225.54	222.40	223.94	
Comp	2216.69	2256.11	2212.29	2224.66	+15.24

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Previous Close	Today 4 P.M.
Industrials	972.86	958.62	959.83	964.56
Transp.	598.88	591.71	592.15	597.88
Utilities	196.07	192.59	192.74	193.08
Finance	94.44	91.68	91.74	92.28
SP 500	827.76	814.70	815.62	803.08

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	430.93	423.02	426.90	+1.95
Industrials	545.25	535.35	540.05	+2.25
Transp.	394.85	387.55	392.26	+3.98
Utility	289.47	284.61	286.82	+1.23
Finance	391.35	383.63	387.90	+2.15

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1337.62	1316.22	1330.79	+7.88
Industrials	1069.46	1054.85	1065.77	+5.32
Banks	1427.46	1416.72	1422.38	+1.77
Insurance	1485.26	1472.33	1474.05	+1.34
Finance	2740.77	2728.70	2734.47	-2.14
Transp.	888.07	878.79	883.99	+2.87

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
574.06	569.64	570.97	+0.47

Dow Jones Bond

	Previous Close	Today Noon
20 Bonds	101.88	101.94
10 Utilities	98.68	98.66
10 Industrials	105.09	105.23

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Iomega s	72268	19⅝	18¼	18⅞	-⅛
NewsCp pf	57553	15⅛	15	15⅛	+⅛
PhilEnv g	52645	15⅛	12½	12¾	-2¾
WalMart	50216	29⅝	28¾	29⅛	+⅛
PhilMor s	49933	42⅛	41⅛	41⅞	+⅛
IBM	47596	169⅝	163½	167½	+5⅜
AT&T s	45882	32⅝	31⅞	32½	-⅛
LehmBr	43945	38⅜	36⅞	37⅛	-⅛
Exxon s	42525	59½	57⅛	58	—
CocaCl	40861	66⅛	64⅝	64¾	-⅝
HewlPk s	40518	53⅜	52¼	52⅞	-⅜
GTE	40475	44	43	43½	-½
PepsiCo	37255	36¼	35⅜	35¼	-⅛
MicroT	37230	38⅛	36⅞	37⅞	
TelBrasl	36956	125	119	123⅝	+4¾

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Cisco	208688	62	58⅞	61⅜	+2⅜
PetsMart s	182815	10⅝	9⅞	10⅛	-¾
Intel	123984	160	155	158⅞	+2⅞
3Com	105794	38⅛	36⅞	38⅛	+1¼
Ascend	88256	50¼	48	49⅝	+1⅝
Microsft s	67171	118⅛	115⅛	116¼	+1
Oracle	65534	44½	42⅝	43⅞	+⅞
WorldCm s	59930	25⅛	24½	24¹¹⁄₁₆	-1⅛
SunMic s	53758	31⅛	30½	31⅛	+½
PrnLasr	52266	12⅛	10⅛	11	+2⅛
DellCpt s	51909	93⅛	91⅛	92⅝	+⅞
Quantum	50747	48⅛	44⅝	46⅛	-1½
ApldMat	50493	63⅛	60⅛	63⅛	+2⅜
ForeSys s	50243	17⅛	15⅛	15⅝	-⅝
GCR Hld n	49246	27⅜	25⅛	27⅛	+4⅜

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	28653	83⅞	81¾	82¼	+¾
IvaxCp	12249	9⅝	8½	9¼	+¾
EchoBay	12035	6⅛	5⅝	5⅞	+⅛
XCL Ltd	8101	⅛	⅛	⅛	-⅛
ViacB	7862	29⅞	28⅜	28⅞	-⅛
NY Times	7468	44⅛	43⅛	43⅞	-⅛
Hasbro s	7375	24⅞	24⅜	24⅝	+⅜
RoyalO g	5893	2⅞	2⅜	2⅛	-⅛
BemaGold	4859	7⅝	6⅞	7⅝	+⅛
TWA	4758	7⅛	7	7⅛	+⅛

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1438	854
Declined	1105	1683
Unchanged	804	826
Total issues	3347	3363
New Highs	110	97
New Lows	14	16

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1760	1953
Declined	1530	2029
Unchanged	2113	1754
Total issues	5403	5736
New Highs	55	95
New Lows	89	95

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	266	256
Declined	271	385
Unchanged	179	172
Total issues	716	713
New Highs	13	13
New Lows	9	6

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	527.19	613.86
Amex	20.51	610.71
Nasdaq	582.58	24.81

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Nycomed ASA	b	.4293	5-13	6-10
CTG Inc 2 for 1 split.				
Energy Ventures 2 for 1 split				
KCS Energy 2 for 1 split.				
Philippine Lg Dist 2 for 1 split.				
Sykes Enterprises 3 for 2 split.				
REVERSE SPLIT				
Avax Tech 2 for 1 reverse split				
INCREASED				
Saleco Corp	Q	.32	7-11	7-28
Simon de Bartolo	Q	.505	5-16	5-23
Trimark Fincl g	Q	.05	6-24	7-9
Weston,George g	Q	.25	6-15	7-1
REGULAR				
Baxter Intl	Q	.2825	6-11	7-1
Carlisle Cos	Q	.1225	5-19	6-2
CorrAmerica	Q	.4375	5-23	6-6
Chartwell Re	Q	.04	5-20	6-3
Daniel Indust	Q	.045	6-13	6-30
Enron Oil	Q	.03	7-15	7-31
FL Rock	S	.25	6-13	7-1
Fedl Rlty Inv Tr	Q	.42	6-25	7-15
Heritage US Gv	M	.087	5-16	5-22
Hilton Hotels	Q	.08	6-6	6-20
Intl Flavor	Q	.36	6-27	7-11
Inv Grd Muni	M	.075	5-15	5-30
La-Z-Boy	Q	.21	5-23	6-10
Moore Corp Ltd	Q	.235	6-6	7-2
Motorola Inc	Q	.12	6-16	7-15
New Am HI Inco	M	.04	5-16	5-30
Overseas Ship	Q	.15	5-19	5-30
Pacific Cap Bncp	Q	.165	6-16	6-30
Peoples Energy	Q	.47	6-20	7-15
Potash Corp Sask	Q	.36	7-25	8-15
Pf Income Fd	M	.087	5-22	5-30
Pf Inco Mngmnt	M	.087	5-22	5-30
Pf Inco Opport	M	.073	5-22	5-30
Quaker Chem	Q	.175	7-18	7-30
Regis Corp	Q	.02	5-19	6-3
Rockwell Intl	Q	.29	5-19	6-2
Seligman Qlty	M	.0782	5-16	5-28
Thomas Betts	Q	.28	6-13	7-1
Trans Leasing	Q	.03	5-12	5-26
Treadco Inc	Q	.04	5-7	6-4
Urban Shop	Q	.5075	5-20	6-5
UtiliCorp United	Q	.44	5-22	6-12
Vital Signs	Q	.04	5-13	5-24
Vitran Corp	S	.035	6-12	6-30
Wynns Intl	Q	.08	6-6	6-30

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration. a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99.cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

May 8, 1997

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	288½	286	288		11,206
Jul 97	285½	282½	284½	—¾	130,451
Sep 97	270	268	269¼	—¾	25,528
Dec 97	269¼	266¾	268¼	—¾	108,349
Mar 98	274½	272¼	273¼	—½	11,371
May 98	278	276¾	277½	—1½	1,047
Jul 98	282	280	282	—½	2,567
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 64,891					
Wed's open int 293,594 off 5035					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
May 97	301.70	298.10	301.30	—0.40	9,936
Jul 97	293.50	289.00	291.90	—1.90	53,133
Aug 97	278.50	276.00	277.90	—1.80	15,092
Sep 97	259.00	257.08	259.00		8,873
Oct 97	235.50	233.00	235.20	+0.90	9,472
Dec 97	226.00	223.00	225.20	+0.90	17,788
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 31,866					
Wed's open int 117,686 off 243					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
May 97	24.55	24.20	24.46	—0.06	1,158
Jul 97	24.87	24.53	24.74	—0.10	52,377
Aug 97	24.99	24.73	24.90	—0.05	13,088
Sep 97	25.10	24.90	25.02	—0.03	8,120
Oct 97	25.12	24.98	25.07	+0.02	7,687
Dec 97	25.35	25.13	25.32	+0.04	18,942
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 19,350					
Wed's open int 102,032 up 1060					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	890½	883	887½	—8½	4,390
Jul 97	888	878	884	—8	106,781
Aug 97	862¼	851	854¾	—7¼	19,087
Sep 97	765½	759½	762¾	—2½	6,500
Nov 97	711	703	708½	+1	48,008
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 60,954					
Wed's open int 191,631 off 519					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	402	393½	400	+5	310
Jul 97	412	401½	409	+4¾	56,480
Sep 97	418	408	414¼	+4	13,102
Dec 97	429	418½	425¾	+4	15,350
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 15,357					
Wed's open int 86,627 off 988					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	65.30	64.75	64.82	—0.40	36,499
Aug 97	65.75	65.15	65.30	—0.22	28,348
Oct 97	69.07	68.57	68.70	—0.37	16,396
Dec 97	70.90	70.42	70.47	—0.32	8,576
Feb 98	71.25	70.80	70.82	—0.37	5,236
Apr 98	72.97	72.60	72.67	—0.42	1,436
Est. sales 14,191 Wed's. sales 11,971					
Wed's open int 96,691 up 555					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	74.30	73.90	73.95	—0.37	3,956
Aug 97	76.82	76.35	76.42	—0.50	8,739
Sep 97	76.60	76.15	76.25	—0.40	1,783
Oct 97	76.80	76.25	76.37	—0.60	2,948
Nov 97	78.35	78.05	78.15	—0.15	1,548
Jan 98	79.00	78.80	78.92	—0.17	359
Est. sales 2,269 Wed's. sales 2,104					
Wed's open int 19,634 off 6					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	85.02	84.00	84.85	+0.47	17,303
Jul 97	86.50	85.00	86.12	+0.72	7,542
Aug 97	83.97	82.95	83.80	+0.32	4,272
Oct 97	76.15	75.00	76.00	+0.52	5,221
Dec 97	73.10	72.35	72.95	—0.07	3,163
Est. sales 12,614 Wed's. sales 10,413					
Wed's open int 41,641 up 163					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	90.37	89.00	90.37	+0.52	588
Jul 97	91.85	90.37	91.57	+0.52	4,747
Aug 97	91.20	89.60	90.27	+0.07	1,580
Est. sales 2,896 Wed's. sales 3,166					
Wed's open int 9,253 off 25					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
May 97	1412	1410	1412	—11	145
Jul 97	1426	1412	1422	—6	31,386
Sep 97	1453	1440	1452	—1	13,349
Dec 97	1480	1470	1480	—3	17,940
Mar 98	1506	1500	1506	—3	20,229
May 98	1526	1518	1526	—3	8,553
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 5,669					
Wed's open int 93,676 off 532					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	246.00	239.00	240.00	—5.65	804
Jul 97	219.50	209.50	216.90	+5.50	15,119
Sep 97	196.25	189.50	194.50	+3.15	7,047
Dec 97	174.25	169.00	173.10	+1.80	4,742
Mar 98	160.00	157.00	160.00	+1.00	1,924
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 9,527					
Wed's open int 30,082 off 79					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	10.85	10.73	10.84	+0.08	73,479
Oct 97	10.69	10.61	10.69	+0.05	39,290
Mar 98	10.64	10.58	10.63	+0.02	23,756
May 98	10.59	10.54	10.59	+0.02	5,512
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 12,442					
Wed's open int 145,489 off 605					
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	74.50	73.75	74.40	+0.40	496
Jul 97	75.00	74.60	74.85	+0.10	17,806
Sep 97	77.80	77.25	77.25	—0.20	6,350
Nov 97	80.40	80.00	80.05	—0.20	3,032
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 1,022					
Wed's open int 30,157 up 166					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
May 97	354.70	343.80	343.80	+2.60	7
Jun 97	346.60	343.40	344.80	+2.40	75,145
Jul 97			346.10	+2.40	
Aug 97	349.50	345.70	347.50	+2.40	18,852
Oct 97	352.10	349.20	350.20	+2.40	6,380
Dec 97	355.50	351.70	353.10	+2.40	21,031
Feb 98	357.00	356.00	356.00	+2.40	4,687
Apr 98			358.60	+2.40	3,096
Jun 98			361.50	+2.40	6,749
Est. sales 35,000 Wed's. sales 17,918					
Wed's open int 166,948 off 1186					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	112.70	110.65	112.15	+1.05	3,804
Jun 97	112.50	111.00	111.85	+0.80	2,596
Jul 97	112.50	110.80	111.45	+1.00	24,327
Aug 97	109.60	109.40	109.55	+0.95	1,385
Sep 97	109.20	106.90	108.20	+0.90	5,177
Oct 97			106.85	+1.40	7,003
Nov 97			105.65	+0.85	1,159
Dec 97	105.50	103.30	104.40	+0.60	6,429
Jan 98			102.80	+0.25	495
Est. sales 10,000 Wed's. sales 7,155					
Wed's open int 58,850 off 445					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
May 97	482.10	472.00	482.10	+10.40	384
Jun 97			483.60	+10.20	2
Jul 97	488.00	476.00	486.00	+10.20	57,797
Sep 97	492.50	483.00	490.90	+10.20	5,386
Dec 97	500.00	493.00	498.30	+10.30	7,336
Jan 98			500.60	+10.30	18
Mar 98	506.00	505.00	506.80	+10.30	7,346
May 98			511.10	+10.30	2,710
Est. sales 12,000 Wed's. sales 4,282					
Wed's open int 86,407 up 215					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jul 97	379.50	374.00	379.50	+6.60	12,794
Oct 97	380.90	376.00	380.90	+6.60	2,992
Jan 98			383.10	+6.60	1,180
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 1,332					
Wed's open int 17,080 up 8					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1647.00	1648.00	1614½	1615½
Forward	1668.00	1669.00	1642.00	1643.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2458.00	2460.00	2408.00	2410.00
Forward	2396.00	2397.00	2353.00	2354.00
Lead				
Spot	620½	621½	612.00	614.00
Forward	632.00	633.00	623.00	625.00
Nickel				
Spot	7690.00	7700.00	7445.00	7455.00
Forward	7798.00	7800.00	7560.00	7565.00
Tin				
Spot	5855.00	5865.00	5735.00	5745.00
Forward	5890.00	5900.00	5770.00	5780.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1302.00	1303.00	1255½	1256½
Forward	1323.00	1324.00	1277.00	1278.00

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.67	94.65	94.67		5,815
Sep 97	94.45	94.41	94.43		3,718
Dec 97			94.48		847
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 534					
Wed's open int 9,533 off 115					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Jun 97	105-18	104-55	105-15	+10	224,516
Sep 97	105-02	104-49	105-02	+10	5,765
Dec 97			104-51	+09	20
Est. sales 53,000 Wed's. sales 47,298					
Wed's open int 230,301 up 460					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	107-04	106-17	107-01	+07	304,576
Sep 97	106-21	106-05	106-19	+08	36,894
Dec 97	106-07	106-07	106-07	+08	1,925
Est. sales 80,000 Wed's. sales 71,660					
Wed's open int 343,395 off 1668					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Jun 97	109-30	108-30	109-26	+16	487,413
Sep 97	109-17	108-19	109-14	+16	63,951
Dec 97	108-26	108-26	108-26	+08	9,892
Mar 98			108-25	+16	1,756
Est. sales 450,000 Wed's. sales 353,986					
Wed's open int 563,840 up 1499					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun97	114-00	112-28	113-28	+0-19	200,361
Sep97	113-25	113-09	114-03	+0-20	4,583
Est. sales: 101,219. Prev. sales: 106,311					
Prev. open int.: 204,944 up 3,283					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	101.78	101.31	101.71	—0.06	261,956
Sep97	100.54	100.37	100.71	—0.04	24,295
Est. sales: 101,098. Prev. sales: 104,405					
Prev. open int.: 286,251 off 5,052					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	129.09	128.71	128.98	—0.25	112,576
Sep97	129.30	129.09	129.27	—0.23	6,701
Est. sales: 33,135. Prev. sales: 60,441					
Prev. open int.: 119,277 up 2,737					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 97			92.09	+0.02	525
May 97	94.14	94.11	94.13		41,173
Jun 97	94.05	94.02	94.05		472,462
Jul 97	93.98	93.95	93.97		7,571
Sep 97	93.86	93.80	93.84		436,390
Dec 97	93.64	93.55	93.62	+0.01	314,472
Mar 98	93.53	93.42	93.51	+0.03	238,338
Jun 98	93.41	93.30	93.39	+0.03	225,882
Sep 98	93.33	93.22	93.31	+0.03	162,638
Dec 98	93.22	93.12	93.20	+0.03	124,904
Mar 99	93.21	93.11	93.20	+0.03	95,885
Jun 99	93.17	93.08	93.16	+0.03	78,602
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 402,039					
Wed's open int 2,638,137 up 23409					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Jun 97	1.6300	1.6076	1.6212		38,413
Sep 97	1.6200	1.6100	1.6186		1,066
Dec 97	1.6180	1.6080	1.6148		109
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 17,487					
Wed's open int 39,588 off 457					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Jun 97	.7287	.7239	.7241		68,149
Sep 97	.7300	.7280	.7284		6,171
Dec 97	.7335	.7318	.7321		1,409
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 6,782					
Wed's open int 76,680 up 298					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Jun 97	.5884	.5820	.5878		83,739
Sep 97	.5923	.5890	.5909		3,510
Dec 97			.5950		341
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 16,688					
Wed's open int 87,702 up 1199					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Jun 97	.8142	.8020	.8127		77,552
Sep 97	.8240	.8200	.8237		1,957
Dec 97	.8351	.8332	.8351		720
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 29,023					
Wed's open int 80,239 off 1898					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Jun 97	.6973	.6870	.6941		43,913
Sep 97	.7041	.6984	.7011		2,269
Dec 97	.7105	.7072	.7085		438
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 15,822					
Wed's open int 46,670 off 495					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	93.45	93.41	93.44	+0.02	113,335
Sep97	93.23	93.16	93.20	+0.01	101,061
Dec97	93.04	92.98	93.02	+0.01	85,295
Mar98	92.93	92.86	92.91	+0.01	57,515
Jun98	92.84	92.76	92.83	+0.02	47,719
Sep98	92.78	92.71	92.77	+0.02	27,756
Dec98	92.74	92.66	92.73	+0.02	24,024
Mar99	92.73	92.64	92.71	+0.04	14,724
Est. sales: 95,773. Prev. sales: 123,026					
Prev. open int.: 499,165 up 10,508					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
May97	N.T.	N.T.	96.81	+0.01	4,803
Jun97	96.79	96.78	96.79	+0.01	229,297
Jul97	N.T.	N.T.	96.78	+0.01	1,422
Sep97	96.74	96.71	96.73	+0.01	213,430
Dec97	96.61	96.57	96.60	+0.01	236,929
Mar98	96.48	96.44	96.47	+0.01	189,674
Jun98	96.32	96.27	96.31	+0.01	148,007
Sep98	96.12	96.06	96.11	+0.01	122,311
Dec98	95.88	95.83	95.87	+0.01	79,745
Mar99	95.65	95.60	95.64	+0.01	66,986
Est. sales: 73,834. Prev. sales: 89,278					
Prev. open int.: 1,406,397 off 1,671					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	93.25	93.16	93.24	—0.01	110,989
Sep97	93.57	93.48	93.55	Unch.	77,277
Dec97	93.70	93.63	93.69	Unch.	53,902
Mar98	93.74	93.65	93.73	Unch.	34,295
Jun98	93.71	93.62	93.70	—0.01	24,355
Sep98	93.64	93.60	93.64	—0.01	7,210
Est. sales: 48,257. Prev. sales: 30,495					
Prev. open int.: 311,070 up 2,127					
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jul 97	72.45	71.85	72.12	+0.28	40,374
Oct 97	73.70	73.30	73.45	+0.12	3,022
Dec 97	74.75	74.40	74.56	+0.10	23,539
Mar 98	75.85	75.70	75.85	+0.20	3,465
May 98			70.17	—4.36	751
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 3,984					
Wed's open int 73,273 off 485					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Jun 97	54.70	53.10	54.38	+1.30	35,719
Jul 97	54.70	53.35	54.60	+1.24	29,381
Aug 97	55.00	53.80	55.00	+1.14	14,434
Sep 97	55.70	54.65	55.70	+1.09	9,079
Oct 97	56.45	55.40	56.45	+1.09	8,360
Nov 97	57.20	56.20	57.20	+1.09	7,405
Dec 97	57.85	56.95	57.85	+1.09	13,755
Jan 98	58.25	57.30	58.25	+1.09	8,058
Feb 98	57.95	57.00	57.95	+1.04	3,483
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 24,424					
Wed's open int 137,549 up 315					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Jun 97	20.38	19.60	20.32	+0.70	86,141
Jul 97	20.38	19.71	20.31	+0.58	57,464
Aug 97	20.29	19.75	20.24	+0.49	31,027
Sep 97	20.10	19.76	20.10	+0.36	18,442
Oct 97	20.15	19.75	20.15	+0.41	15,800
Nov 97	20.18	19.72	20.10	+0.37	14,367
Dec 97	20.15	19.70	20.15	+0.43	23,479
Jan 98	20.00	19.75	20.00	+0.29	14,825
Feb 98	20.00	19.82	20.00	+0.29	8,140
Mar 98	19.95	19.90	19.90	+0.21	4,262
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 392,769					
Wed's open int 74,476 off 318033					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Jun 97	2.365	2.255	2.273		42,183
Jul 97	2.380	2.275	2.288		29,039
Aug 97	2.360	2.270	2.283		18,907
Sep 97	2.330	2.260	2.271		16,186
Oct 97	2.340	2.270	2.278		17,566
Nov 97	2.435	2.380	2.380		7,996
Dec 97	2.550	2.480	2.480		12,437
Jan 98	2.600	2.530	2.530		12,023
Feb 98	2.500	2.435	2.440		8,231
Mar 98	2.370	2.310	2.310		6,581
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 67,734					
Wed's open int 210,278 up 5574					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Jun 97	62.90	60.80	62.38	+1.38	48,174
Jul 97	61.75	59.85	61.20	+1.13	21,885
Aug 97	60.50	59.10	60.40	+1.30	8,978
Sep 97	59.30	57.90	59.30	+1.45	3,594
Oct 97	57.10	56.15	57.00	+1.00	2,559
Nov 97	56.40	56.30	56.40	+1.10	1,419
Dec 97	55.75	55.75	55.75	+0.75	3,922
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 29,549					
Wed's open int 91,885 up 2471					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
May 97	177.00	167.00	169.00	+2.00	15,704
Jun 97	167.75	165.25	167.50	+1.50	24,436
Jul 97	169.00	166.50	168.75	+1.25	8,924
Aug 97	170.50	168.25	170.50	+1.25	7,259
Sept 97	171.25	171.75	172.25	+1.00	3,240
Oct 97	173.00	172.50	174.00	+0.75	3,445
Nov 97	175.00	174.25	175.25	+0.75	1,603
Dec 97	176.50	174.75	176.00	+0.75	7,729
Est. sales:21,500. Open int.:76,835 up 1,083					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
June 97	18.78	18.11	18.69	+0.53	39,640
July 97	18.79	18.24	18.64	+0.42	71,416
Aug 97	18.81	18.34	18.69	+0.35	18,849
Sep 97	18.79	18.45	18.75	+0.29	10,351
Oct 97	18.80	18.52	18.79	+0.24	6,933
Nov97	18.70	18.57	18.80	+0.23	8,624
Dec97	18.50	18.50	18.73	+0.19	3,190
Jan98	18.60	18.60	18.69	+0.18	1,441
Est. sales: 59,560. Open int.: 174,467 off 3,553					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Jun 97	834.20	810.60	830.20	+12.55	185,104
Sep 97	842.30	822.50	839.60	+13.50	7,691
Dec 97	852.40	831.60	848.00	+12.50	3,427
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 83,175					
Wed's open int 196,777 off 518					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Jun97	4588.0	4522.0	4584.0	+31.0	64,444
Sep97	4575.0	4557.0	4616.0	+31.0	3,528
Dec97	4620.0	4620.0	4657.0	+31.5	320
Est. sales: 15,150. Prev. sales: 13,718					
Prev. open int.: 68,292 up 1,757					

The MATIF exchange was closed Thursday for a holiday.

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	N.A.	N.A.
Reuters	1,966.30	1,973.80
D.J. Futures	161.01	159.81
CRB	248.07	246.61

Sources: Matif, Associated Press, London Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

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Herald Tribune

Another Profit Alert Damages BTR Stock

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — BTR PLC shares fell 14 percent Thursday after the company said the strong pound and sluggish growth in Germany and Australia were leading to a drop in its first-half operating profit.

BTR, which makes products ranging from formica tabletops to conveyor belts, said those factors would cut operating profit by about £35 million ($57.3 million) and sales by £300 million, compared with the first half of 1996.

Germany and Australia account for 30 percent of the company's revenue.

Other British businesses, including Reed International PLC and Reuters Holdings PLC, also have said that the expensive pound, which has risen 20 percent against a basket of other currencies since August, would slash their earnings by reducing the value of overseas income when it is converted into pounds.

"This is not the first profit warning" over British currency fluctuations, said John Hatherly, head of research at M&G Group PLC, "and it's not going to be the last. The reaction is more the surprise."

BTR's stock fell 37 pence to close at 229.

BTR's profit warning is the latest of several such alerts that have dented investor confidence in the conglomerate.

In September 1994, the company said profit margins had come under pressure because of overcapacity in its markets. In December 1995, it said a weak Australian housing market and sluggishness in U.S. and European car manufacturing would dent profit.

Last May, BTR blamed poor performance at its Polymer Taiwan unit for a weak profit outlook.

But some analysts said they expected that a yearlong reorganization program would eventually bring returns at the company.

"The market always expects things to happen overnight," said Grant Cullens, fund manager with Hill Samuel Bank Ltd. "I think there is at least another 18 months to go."

"This is an overreaction," said Janet Lear at Credit Lyonnais Securities. "This highlighted the fact that there is more economic impact than people thought. We're still very keen on BTR."

BTR also restated its earnings for 1996 to account for a disposal and acquisition program. It said operating profit in the first half of 1996 was £690 million, compared with a previously reported £496 million. Sales for the first half were set at £4.19 billion.

The company aims to sell off about £2.5 billion of assets by the end of this year. It had sold £1.8 billion by March.

Separately, BTR said it had agreed to buy the Parvex unit of GEC Alsthom and to sell its Mirrless Blackstone unit to that joint-venture company.

BTR said Parvex would enhance its Brook Hansen industrial motors and gear drives unit, while the Mirrless sale completed its exit from diesel engine manufacturing.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Charge Hits Profit at Body Shop

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Body Shop International PLC said Thursday its pretax profit fell 3 percent in the year ended March 1 as it took a charge for problems at its French operations.

Without the charge of £6.5 million ($10.6 million), the retailer, which sells what it calls environmentally friendly cosmetics, would have posted a 17 percent rise in profit as revenue from new stores offset slow growth at existing stores. Pretax profit after the charge was £31.7 million, down from £32.7 million a year earlier.

Stuart Rose, the managing director, said the company was looking for a French retailer to take over operations in France. He said French sales suffered from a terrorist bombing campaign in 1995 and had never recovered. Overall, sales rose 8 percent, to £622.5 million, but sales at stores that had been open at least a year were flat.

Body Shop's shares fell 2 pence to close at 188.5.

(Bloomberg, AFX, Reuters)

Boeing Lands a Czech Deal

It and McDonnell Plan to Take Stake in Aircraft Maker

Bloomberg News

PRAGUE — The government plans to sell a minority stake in the Czech Republic's biggest maker of military aircraft, Aero Vodochody, to a group led by Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp.

The contract, announced late Wednesday, should be signed by the end of September, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus said. The price was not disclosed.

The Czech airline CSA joined Boeing and McDonnell to form the consortium.

The sale comes as McDonnell Douglas is competing to sell fighter jets to the Czech military and to other East European countries.

Boeing and its partners plan to use Aero Vodochody to make parts for Boeing's commercial carriers and assemble McDonnell's fighter jets, using some local suppliers.

The Czech government opened bidding in January for a stake of between 34 percent and 40 percent of the heavily indebted aircraft maker. The minimum price was set at 950 million koruna ($30.8 million). Boeing and McDonnell Douglas's cooperation on the project is independent of Boeing's plan to buy McDonnell, and the two will remain partners in the Czech Republic even if regulators block Boeing's $13.65 billion purchase of its rival, Boeing said. The merger is expected to close this summer.

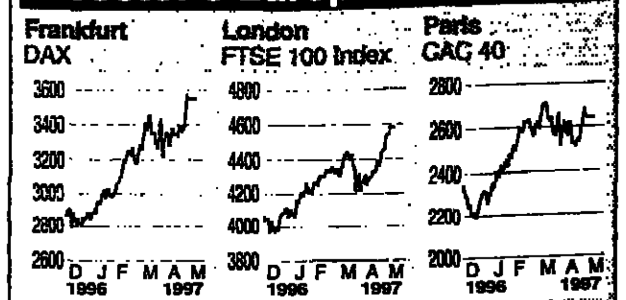
Aero already makes parts for Boeing 747s and 757s. Analysts said the companies may have agreed to the deal to improve their chances of selling military aircraft to Prague.

"Ultimately, one has to be able to provide offsets and jobs, and I think this is really part of the offset issue," John Modzelewski, an analyst at PaineWebber, said.

Companies that win contracts from governments often sign so-called offset deals to make parts in the country or use local subcontractors.

Aero Vodochody produces training aircraft and is one of the Czech Republic's largest exporters of military equipment, mainly parts for its planes.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	Closed	775.99	-
Brussels	BEL-20	Closed	2,234.75	-
Frankfurt	DAX	Closed	3,551.96	-
Copenhagen	Stock Market	Closed	555.48	-
Helsinki	HEX General	Closed	3,002.84	-
Oslo	OBX	Closed	608.57	-
London	FTSE 100	4,580.40	4,537.50	+0.95
Madrid	Stock Exchange	525.85	524.12	+0.33
Milan	MIBTEL	12272	12326	-0.44
Paris	CAC 40	Closed	2,643.31	-
Stockholm	SX 16	Closed	2,909.40	-
Vienna	ATX	Closed	1,227.21	-
Zurich	SPI	Closed	3,157.28	-

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

BSkyB's Plan Gains Ally and Rival

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC's planned satellite-television venture drew a competitor and a collaborator Thursday.

British Digital Broadcasting, a consortium bidding for rights to offer digital terrestrial-television services, said it was discussing working with British Interactive Broadcasting, the satellite group led by BSkyB.

But United News & Media PLC said it had formed an alliance with NTL Inc. to bid for a license for digital-television services that would compete with the BSkyB venture.

BSkyB announced the formation of British Interactive on Wednesday. The venture, which is to provide such services as home shopping and banking along with about 200 satellite channels, also includes British Telecommunications PLC, Midland Bank PLC and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.

British Digital, formed by Carlton Communications PLC and Granada Group PLC, already has applied with BSkyB for three digital terrestrial-television licenses. The director of British Digital, Nigel Walmsley, welcomed the creation of British Interactive, saying it would accelerate his company's prospects of offering a wider range of interactive services. "BDB and BIB are in active discussions about collaboration between the parties to enhance the interactive opportunities afforded by BDB's plans for digital terrestrial television," Mr. Walmsley said.

United News said it would pay £120 million ($196.4 million) over four years for 30 percent of the capital of Digital Television Network Ltd., a venture owned by NTL. NTL was formed after the acquisition of International CableTel Inc., a U.S.-owned British cable company, by National Transcommunications Ltd., which previously ran a commercial-television transmitter network.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Very briefly:

- **Abbas Gokal**, chairman of the **Gulf Group** shipping and trading concern, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his central role in a $1.2 billion web of corrupt loans involving top executives of **Bank of Credit & Commerce International.** He was also fined almost $5 million.
- **Lonrho PLC** sold **Lonrho Sugar Corp.**, an African subsidiary, to **Illovo Sugar Ltd.** of South Africa for 1.62 billion rand ($363.5 million).
- **Alfred McAlpine PLC** agreed to buy another home-builder, **Raine PLC**, for about £44.3 million ($72.5 million) in stock and the assumption of £40 million in debt.
- **Spain's** unemployment fell to 13.61 percent in April from 13.89 percent in March, the Labor Ministry said. The ministry's figures, which reflect unemployment-insurance claims, differ from those of the National Statistics Institute, which are based on a telephone survey; the institute estimated unemployment at 21.8 percent in the fourth quarter.
- **Empresa Nacional de Electricidad SA** said lower electricity rates and a revaluation of its assets led to an 8 percent decline in first-quarter net profit, to 39.2 billion pesetas ($270.2 million).
- **Telepizza SA's** first-quarter net profit rose 41 percent, to 482 million pesetas, as the Spanish pizza-delivery company increased sales both to individual buyers and to franchisees.
- **Italy's Treasury Ministry** said it would fine former senior administrators and members of the board of **Banco di Napoli SpA** 1.25 billion lire ($733,000) for supervisory failures.
- **Olivetti SpA** forecast that it would report a first-half loss of 264.2 billion lire, with the loss for the second quarter totaling 93 billion lire.
- **Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.'s** first-quarter net profit rose 68 percent, to $31.5 million, on increased revenue from the Israeli pharmaceutical company's generic drugs.
- ***Bezeq Ltd.*** *lost its appeal to the Jerusalem District Court of* the Antitrust Authority's declaration that the state-owned phone company was a monopoly.

Bloomberg, AFP, AFX

Toyota Plans New Model for Europe

Bloomberg News

BRUSSELS — Toyota Motor Corp. said it was developing a "completely new kind of small car for the European market," and that it might build the car at a new plant somewhere on the Continent.

Toyota's president, Hiroshi Okuda, said the automaker had not yet made a decision on whether to build a new plant in Europe.

"I have not brought a shovel," said Mr. Okuda, who was in Brussels on Wednesday for meetings with Toyota sales and manufacturing representatives. "We are not ready yet to go to work on any new plants, and I don't expect a decision before next year about any additional production in Europe."

He said the new model, intended to compete with Volkswagen AG's Polo, Ford Motor Co.'s Ka and Fiat SpA's Punto, would not be sold in Japan but would be designed there with input from the Toyota design center in Brussels.

Conceptual models of the new car, which does not yet have a name, will be shown at the Frankfurt auto show in September, Mr. Okuda said.

Toyota hopes to increase sales in Europe to 600,000 vehicles a year by the turn of the century from about 400,000 last year. The European Union has a one million car-per-year limit on Japanese auto imports.

Toyota said it would shift production of its Corolla model from Japan to its Burnaston, England, plant next year to make room for production of the new car.

STOCKS: *As Most Flee the Bangkok Market, Some Still Insist That a Rebound Is Near*

Continued from Page 13

The government is already trying to bail out troubled property and finance companies.

It inaugurated a 50 billion-baht borrowing program Wednesday, after a five-day delay from its scheduled start, to shore up the industries.

About 40 percent of the 900 billion baht of loans made to developers in the 1990s are in default.

The run of problems stems from a frenzy of building and speculation in the late 1980s that is coming back to haunt developers and the financial institutions that lent them money.

Thailand's current-account deficit has compounded the real-estate crash.

At almost 8 percent of economic output, the shortfall is one of the world's highest and has prompted comparisons with Mexico, which devalued its currency in 1994 after running up a comparable imbalance.

The deficit has forced the central bank to keep overnight lending rates at about 9.5 percent, leaving inflation-adjusted interest rates near their highest this decade.

With all that bad news already reflected in stocks, Mr. Sandlund said he saw no reason to sell now. The moment every analyst, journalist or salesman seems to be forecasting doom, he said, is often the very moment to buy.

"I'd prefer to be buying into a collapsing market," Mr. Sandlund said, but "when you can find a guy who can call the bottom of this market or any market, let me know and I'll hire him."

■ Central Bank Defends Itself

The Bank of Thailand reaffirmed its independence Thursday from Thai politics in carrying out its job of maintaining monetary stability, Reuters reported from Bangkok.

Remgchai Marakanond, the central bank's governor, said he had followed a tradition observed by his predecessors in coordinating with the government on monetary policy.

"The central bank has consistently adhered to the principle of being independent in carrying out its responsibility," Mr. Remgchai said.

"But being independent does not entail any vocal conflict with the government."

Mr. Remgchai's statement was a response to recent local press criticism that he had been submissive to politicians during his 10-month tenure.

The governor credited the central bank's success in defending the baht against several rounds of sporadic market attacks early this year to his mobilizing the central bank's staff to work as a team.

Will Labour Aid Eurotunnel?

PARIS — France has asked Britain's new Labour government to reverse its Conservative predecessor by agreeing to an extension of Eurotunnel SA's 65-year concession to operate the Channel Tunnel.

Eurotunnel's creditor banks have agreed to swap some of its £9 billion ($14.7 million) in debt for a 45.5 percent equity stake. But that plan requires approval from individual shareholders, who currently hold 90 percent of the struggling company's equity. Shareholder activists have said they would try to block the debt restructuring plan if the British and French governments do not allow Eurotunnel to keep the concession beyond 2052, giving the company more time to dig itself out of its predicament.

Shareholders are due to meet July 10 to vote on the plan.

Paris backs the extension, but Britain's previous Conservative government, ousted by Labour in general elections May 1, was unwilling to agree.

Separately, Eurotunnel said car and bus traffic on its Le Shuttle service fell 3 percent, to 143,902 in April from March, while passenger numbers on the Eurostar rail service between London, Paris and Brussels fell to 486,359 from 500,899.

(AFP, AFX)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, May 8
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Bangkok
SET Index: 614.86 Previous: 626.57

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	158	150	154	157
Bangkok Bk F	238	230	230	238
Krung Thai Bk	29	27.50	27.75	28.75
PTT Explor	306	298	304	304
Siam Cement F	652	640	648	652
Siam Com Bk F	147	139	143	149
Telecomasia	35.75	34.75	35.25	35.50
Thai Airways	37.75	36	37	37.50
Thai Farm Bk F	150	145	145	154
Utd Comm	150	142	145	150

Markets Closed

Most European and some Asian markets were closed Thursday for a holiday.

Hong Kong
Hang Seng: 13740.30 Previous: 13605.91

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.30	8.20	8.25	8.35
Bk East Asia	27.75	27.40	27.70	27.70
Cathay Pacific	11.80	11.70	11.80	11.80
Cheung Kong	73.75	72	73.50	73.50
CK Infrastruct	22.65	22.10	22.35	22.10
China Light	35.40	34.90	35.30	35.30
Citic Pacific	43.60	42.20	43.60	42.80
Dao Heng Bk	37.30	36.90	37.10	37.50
First Pacific	9.60	9.50	9.65	9.60
Hang Lung Dev	14.95	14.90	14.95	15
Hang Seng Bk	92.50	90	92.50	92
Henderson Inv	8.90	8.60	8.90	8.85
Henderson Ld	70.25	68.50	70.25	70.50
HK China Gas	12.50	12.20	12.50	12.40
HK Electric	27.10	26.95	27.10	27.15
HK Telecomm	15.05	14.15	15	14.20
Hopewell Hdgs	4.08	3.93	4.03	3.93
HSBC Hdgs	211	204	210	207
Hutchison Wh	61.75	59.75	61.75	61
Hysan Dev	23.50	23	23.45	23.35
Johnson El Hdg	21.45	21.20	21.20	21.30
Kerry Props	18.60	18.40	18.55	18.60
New World Dev	49	47	48.90	47.80
Oriental Press	2.88	2.80	2.83	2.85
Pearl Oriental	3.08	2.98	3.03	3.03
SHK Props	90.75	89.50	90.75	90.75
Shun Tak Hdgs	4.93	4.80	4.90	4.88
Sino Land Co.	8.30	7.95	8.25	8.20
Sth China Post	6.85	6.75	6.80	6.85
Swire Pac A.	62.50	61	62.50	62.25
Wharf Hdgs	30.80	30.10	30.70	30.50
Wheelock	17.55	17	17.50	17.40

Johannesburg
All Market: 7162.94 Previous: 7160.69

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamtd Bks	30.40	30	30	30.40
AngloAm Coal	312	310	312	310
AngloAm-Corp	286	284.50	285.50	280
AngloAm Gold	303	299.50	302	299.50
AngloAm Ind	201	198	199	202.50
AVMIN	16.25	16	16	16.50
Barlow	49	48.50	49	49
C.G. Smith	26	25.75	25.90	26
De Beers	159.75	158.75	159.75	160
Driefontein	38.50	37.90	38.30	37.75
Fst Natl Bk	31.75	31.40	31.75	31.60
Gencor	18.80	18.40	18.75	18.50
GFSA	108	107	108	108
Imperial Hdgs	59.25	58.50	59.25	57
Ingwe Coal	29.10	28.50	28.50	28.50
Iscor	3.20	3.17	3.19	3.20
Johnnies Indl	60.25	59.75	60	60.50
Liberty Hdgs	337	335	335	337
Liberty Life	124.50	123	124	125
LibLife Strat	16.60	16.25	16.30	16.55
Minorco	100	99.50	100	100
Nampak	19	18.70	19	19.05
Nedcor	91	90.75	90.75	92
Rembrandt Gp	46.50	45.75	46.20	46.10
Richemont	65.25	64	65	64.50
Rust Platinum	74.25	73.25	73.50	72.50
SA Breweries	134	132.25	134	132.75
Samancor	47.50	47	47.50	46.50
Sasol	56.25	55.50	56	56
SBIC	210	205.25	210	209.50
Tiger Oats	76.75	76.75	76.75	76.75

London
FT-SE 100: 4580.40 Previous: 4537.50

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	8.90	8.44	8.63	8.47
Allied Domecq	4.40	4.33	4.37	4.37
Anglian Water	6.60	6.48	6.59	6.53
Argos	6.50	6.40	6.45	6.47
Asda Group	1.19	1.17	1.19	1.17
Assoc Br Foods	5.51	5.45	5.51	5.44
BAA	5.39	5.33	5.36	5.33
Barclays	12.12	11.86	12.08	12.04
Bass	8.38	8.21	8.25	8.28
BAT Ind	5.32	5.18	5.21	5.33
Bank Scotland	4.14	3.94	4.10	3.97
Blue Circle	4.52	4.22	4.26	4.27
BOC Group	9.67	9.60	9.64	9.65
Boots	7.77	7.16	7.22	7.22
BPB Ind	3.27	3.23	3.24	3.25
Brit Aerosp	13.05	12.53	12.94	12.79
Brit Airways	6.99	6.94	6.95	6.97
BG	1.85	1.73	1.76	1.74
Brit Land	5.95	5.85	5.90	5.97
Brit Petm	7.22	7.16	7.24	7.28
BSkyB	6.02	5.86	5.94	6.09
Brit Steel	1.50	1.46	1.48	1.47
Brit Telecom	4.59	4.48	4.52	4.58
BTR	2.68	2.16	2.29	2.66
Burmah Castrol	10.28	10.15	10.19	10.25
Burton Gp	1.54	1.52	1.54	1.54
Cable Wireless	5.06	4.91	5.01	4.98
Cadbury Schw	5.43	5.19	5.27	5.21
Carlton Comm	5.40	5.24	5.40	5.28
Coml Union	7.32	7.05	7.32	7.13
Compass Gp	6.73	6.48	6.48	6.72
Courtaulds	3.26	3.15	3.18	3.23
Dixons	5.37	5.20	5.36	5.25
Electrocomponents	4.01	3.98	3.98	4.01
EMI Group	12.45	12.18	12.26	12.49
Energy Group	5.15	5.02	5.07	5.04
Enterprise Oil	6.22	6.12	6.19	6.15
Fam Colonial	1.59	1.57	1.59	1.58
Genl Accident	9.55	9.15	9.32	9.32
GEC	3.71	3.66	3.68	3.70
GKN	9.64	9.53	9.55	9.65
Glaxo Wellcome	12.02	11.80	12.01	11.90
Granada Gp	9.34	9.08	9.20	9.07
Grand Met	5.20	5.10	5.13	5.13
GRE	2.90	2.82	2.86	2.93
Greenalls Gp	5.07	5.03	5.07	5.05
Guinness	5.21	5.10	5.14	5.15
GUS	6.66	6.57	6.58	6.69
Hays	5.69	5.62	5.65	5.72
HSBC Hldgs	17.86	16.38	17.14	16.39
ICI	7.67	7.53	7.60	7.56
Impl Tobacco	4.10	4.05	4.08	4.07
Kingfisher	7.20	7.01	7.15	7.05
Ladbroke	2.45	2.37	2.44	2.38
Land Sec	8.52	8.32	8.50	8.37
Lasmo	2.35	2.26	2.33	2.27
Legal Genl Grp	4.61	4.51	4.60	4.55
Lloyds TSB Gp	6.04	5.87	6.02	5.75
Lucas Varity	1.93	1.88	1.90	1.91
Marks Spencer	5.06	5	5.06	5.04
MEPC	4.96	4.73	4.94	4.75
Mercury Asset	13.75	13.65	13.69	13.71
National Grid	2.34	2.23	2.33	2.23
Natl Power	5.36	5.05	5.05	5.26
NatWest	7.87	7.58	7.84	7.66
Next	6.90	6.81	6.86	6.83
Orange	2.21	2.16	2.28	2.18
P&O	6.17	6.08	6.13	6.12
Pearson	7.13	7	7.06	7.05
Pilkington	1.17	1.13	1.14	1.14
PowerGen	6.47	6.35	6.47	6.49
Premier Farnell	4.72	4.63	4.64	4.70
Prudential	6.44	6.30	6.35	6.33
Railtrack PP	4.48	4.25	4.47	4.25
Rank Group	4.48	4.40	4.42	4.45
Reckitt Colm	8.86	8.73	8.82	8.84
Redland	3.51	3.43	3.51	3.46
Rentokil Initial	4.14	4.08	4.12	4.09
Reuters Hdgs	6.87	6.70	6.85	6.79
Rexam	3.11	3	3.04	2.86
RMC Group	9.50	9.37	9.49	9.45
Rolls Royce	2.50	2.44	2.47	2.50
Royal Bk Scot	6.03	5.76	5.91	5.75
RTZ reg	10	9.88	9.99	9.91
Royal & Sun All	5.14	5.01	5.13	5.11
Safeway	3.46	3.31	3.42	3.34
Sainsbury	3.63	3.45	3.56	3.52
Schroders	16.65	16.45	16.65	16.50
Scot Newcastle	6.92	6.83	6.87	6.88
Scot Power	3.73	3.45	3.72	3.70
Securicor	2.92	2.89	2.91	2.92
Severn Trent	7.50	7.35	7.43	7.41
Shell Transp R	11.08	10.94	10.98	11.05
Siebe	9.60	9.51	9.59	9.57
Smith Nephew	1.76	1.74	1.76	1.75
SmithKline	10.07	9.87	10.04	10.02
Smiths Ind	7.80	7.68	7.74	7.85
Sthern Elec	4.33	4.19	4.23	4.31
Stagecoach	6.23	6	6.20	6
Stand Charter	9.81	9.41	9.59	9.53
Tate & Lyle	4.52	4.43	4.50	4.35
Tesco	3.79	3.57	3.74	3.76
Thames Water	6.75	6.60	6.74	6.62
3i Group	5.25	5.17	5.19	5.20
TI Group	5.47	5.38	5.47	5.43
Tomkins	2.77	2.72	2.75	2.75
Unilever	16.50	16.30	16.36	16.53
Utd Assurance	4.90	4.80	4.83	4.88
Utd News	7.57	7.40	7.51	7.45
Utd Utilities	6.77	6.62	6.75	6.65
Vendome Lx uts	5.20	5.15	5.15	5.23
Vodafone	2.81	2.75	2.79	2.77
Whitbread	7.98	7.89	7.93	7.98
Williams Hdgs	3.18	3.12	3.12	3.17
Wolseley	4.93	4.87	4.88	4.93
WPP Group	2.57	2.52	2.57	2.53
Zeneca	19.25	18.95	19.25	19.15

Madrid
Bolsa index: 525.85 Previous: 524.12

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	22500	21520	22500	21810
ACESA	1720	1695	1720	1700
Aguas Barcelon	5730	5580	5720	5660
Argentaria	7270	7020	7270	7120
BBV	10050	9870	10050	9990
Banesto	1460	1400	1455	1450
Bankinter	22790	22300	22780	22550
Bco Central Hisp	4500	4425	4490	4495
Bco Popular	32500	31700	32500	32000
Bco Santander	11220	11040	11220	11200
CEPSA	4725	4605	4680	4650
Continente	2480	2460	2480	2470
Corp Mapfre	7740	7610	7700	7780
Endesa	10670	10390	10670	10560
FECSA	1215	1190	1215	1205
Gas Natural	30500	30000	30150	30770
Iberdrola	1690	1660	1685	1695
Pryca	2615	2585	2605	2615
Repsol	6020	5920	5960	6040
Sevillana Elec	1300	1275	1295	1280
Tabacalera	7480	7140	7180	7440
Telefonica	3890	3820	3880	3845
Union Fenosa	1250	1235	1245	1255
Valenc Cement	1900	1820	1900	1880

Manila
PSE Index: 2682.10 Previous: 2694.40

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala B	17.25	16.25	17	17.25
Ayala Land	19.25	19	19	19
Bk Philip Isl	151	144	146	152
C&P Homes	10.75	10.25	10.25	10
Manila Elec A	87	82.50	87	87
Metro Bank	595	585	590	590
Petron	8.70	8.20	8.50	8.30
PCIBank	307.50	300	305	310
Phil Long Dist	770	750	755	745
San Miguel B	66	63	63	66
SM Prime Hdg	7	6.90	7	7

Mexico
Bolsa index: 3818.15 Previous: 3774.82

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	46.60	45.90	46.60	46.10
Banacci B	16.74	16.62	16.70	16.80
Cemex CPO	27.60	26.80	27.60	26.85
Cifra C	12.16	12.00	12.12	12.10
Emp Moderna	41.30	41.00	41.30	41.25
Gpo Carso A1	44.90	44.20	44.90	44.15
Gpo F Bcomer	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82
Gpo Fin Inbursa	26.60	26.30	26.55	26.70
Kimb Clark Mex	30.10	29.40	30.05	29.70
Televisa CPO	97.90	95.70	97.80	95.10
TelMex L	16.52	16.36	16.50	16.34

Milan
MIB Telematico: 12272.00 Previous: 12326.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	12090	11760	12025	11800
Bca Comm Ital	3740	3660	3740	3725
Bca Fideuram	4500	4360	4400	4400
Bca di Roma	1268	1250	1250	1271
Benetton	24000	23050	23100	23900
Credito Italiano	2415	2385	2415	2415
Edison	8430	8290	8345	8250
ENI	8665	8555	8645	8640
Fiat	5725	5620	5725	5735
Generali Assic	29300	28950	29200	29200
IMI	15165	14840	15120	15000
INA	2360	2335	2355	2350
Italgas	5825	5730	5770	5830
Mediaset	7450	7355	7450	7430
Mediobanca	10290	10210	10210	10280
Montedison	1078	1063	1066	1072
Olivetti	500	488	495	498
Parmalat	2520	2470	2500	2525
Pirelli	3820	3775	3820	3815
RAS	13985	13780	13935	13955
Rolo Banca	17585	17310	17585	17425
S Paolo Torino	10875	10725	10875	10940
Stet	8190	8090	8165	8250
Telecom Italia	4575	4530	4560	4620
TIM	5375	5280	5320	5415

Montreal
Industrials Index: 3075.11 Previous: 3047.22

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	43.30	43.05	43.20	43.40
Cdn Tire A	25.60	25.35	25½	25½
Cdn Util A	34.60	33.30	34.60	34.40
CT Finl Svc	33.70	33⅛	33.70	33.70
Gaz Metro	17½	17.35	17.35	17.40
Gt-West Lifeco	24⅛	24	24	24⅛
Imasco	38.85	38	38.85	37.90
Investors Grp	25.70	25.70	25.70	25.85
Loblaw Cos	18	17.70	17.80	17.65
Natl Bk Canada	16.10	15.45	15.95	15.65
Power Corp	30.15	29⅞	30	30⅛
Power Finl	27	26.90	26.95	26.95
Quebecor B	26	25⅝	25⅝	26
Rogers Comm B	7.85	7.85	7.85	8
Royal Bk Cda	59.45	57.65	59.20	58.10

São Paulo
Bovespa index: 10496.30 Previous: 10179.65

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	8.95	8.80	8.87	8.90
Brahma Pfd	730.00	729.00	730.00	729.00
Cemig Pfd	47.50	46.50	47.50	46.50
CESP Pfd	56.30	56.00	56.30	56.00
Copel	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Eletrobras	491.00	482.00	489.00	484.00
Itaubanco Pfd	577.00	573.00	574.00	577.00
Light Servicios	475.00	470.990	473.00	471.00
Lightpar	336.00	334.99	335.00	334.00
Petrobras Pfd	231.00	225.50	229.50	227.00
Paulista Luz	168.00	168.00	168.00	167.00
Sid Nacional	37.50	36.80	36.80	37.80
Souza Cruz	9.60	9.47	9.49	9.50
Telebras Pfd	133.20	126.10	132.90	126.80
Telemig	163.00	158.98	158.99	163.00
Telerj	167.50	161.00	166.00	166.50
Telesp Pfd	319.49	311.00	319.00	308.00
Unibanco	39.60	39.59	39.60	39.80
Usiminas Pfd	1.24	1.21	1.24	1.22
CVRD Pfd	26.50	25.45	26.00	25.55

Seoul
Composite Index: 684.69 Previous: 689.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	96000	94000	95500	96300
Daewoo Heavy	5180	4950	4990	5100
Hyundai Eng.	17500	17000	17100	17500
Kia Motors	16200	15700	15900	16400
Korea El Pwr	26300	25900	26000	26100
Korea Exch Bk	5380	5160	5200	5360
Korea Mob Tel	414000	390000	393000	412000
LG Semicon	28300	27400	27900	27900
Pohang Iron St	51200	50000	50500	51000
Samsung Display	41500	40200	41500	41000
Samsung Elec	60900	59300	59300	61000
Shinhan Bank	10600	10200	10300	10400

Singapore
Straits Times: 2059.38 Previous: 2068.13

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	6.60
Cerebos Pac	9	8.95	9	9
City Devlts	12.50	12.40	12.50	12.70
Cycle Carriage	15	14.80	15	15
Dairy Farm Int*	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
DBS foreign	18.10	17.70	17.80	18.30
DBS Land	5.10	4.98	5	5.05
Fraser & Neave	11.60	11.10	11.40	11.40
HK Land*	2.45	2.29	2.43	2.36
Jard Matheson*	6.10	5.75	6.10	5.75
Jard Strategic*	3.58	3.52	3.60	3.52
Keppel	6.70	6.55	6.55	6.65
Keppel Bank	3.80	3.78	3.80	3.80
Keppel Fels	4.58	4.56	4.58	4.60
Keppel Land	4.16	4.08	4.08	4.22
OCBC foreign	18	17.80	17.80	18.20
OS Union Bk F	10.10	10	10	10.20
Parkway Hdgs	6	5.90	5.90	5.90
Sembawang	6.75	6.60	6.70	6.70
Sing Air foreign	12.70	12.60	12.70	12.90
Sing Land	7.10	7	7	7.20
Sing Press F	27.80	27.50	27.60	28.10
Sing Tech Ind	3.84	3.76	3.84	3.84
Sing Telecomm	2.52	2.48	2.49	2.52
Tat Lee Bank	3.36	3.34	3.34	3.34
Utd Industrial	1.15	1.13	1.14	1.15
Utd O'Sea Bk F	15	14.60	14.60	15.20
Wing Tai Hdgs	4.20	4.12	4.18	4.18

*: in U.S. dollars.

Sydney
All Ordinaries: 2504.70 Previous: 2517.60

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.56	8.43	8.53	8.50
ANZ Bkng	8.39	8.31	8.32	8.37
BHP	17.86	17.78	17.83	18.08
Boral	3.90	3.77	3.88	3.84
Brambles Ind.	23.05	22.78	22.80	23.20
CBA	14.14	14.07	14.12	14.20
CC Amatil	14.70	14.50	14.65	14.64
Coles Myer	6.44	6.34	6.36	6.44
Comalco	6.56	6.39	6.56	6.40
CRA	19.41	19.28	19.40	19.35
CSR	4.77	4.59	4.75	4.64
Fosters Brew	2.62	2.58	2.60	2.62
Goodman Fld	1.67	1.63	1.65	1.67
ICI Australia	11.58	10.80	11.35	12.44
Lend Lease	23.95	23.70	23.85	24
MIM Hdgs	1.71	1.69	1.69	1.71
Nat Aust Bank	18.18	17.90	18.05	18.14
Nat Mutual Hdg	1.91	1.87	1.87	1.91
News Corp	6.10	5.97	6.01	6.06
Pacific Dunlop	3.51	3.45	3.50	3.50
Pioneer Intl	4.31	4.28	4.30	4.34
Pub Broadcast	6.40	6.25	6.40	6.28
St George Bank	8.13	8.05	8.10	8.16
WMC	7.77	7.68	7.75	7.73
Westpac Bkng	7.28	7.18	7.26	7.25
Woodside Pet	11	10.79	10.90	10.82
Woolworths	3.92	3.85	3.91	3.92

Taipei
Stock Market Index: 8349.85 Previous: 8427.87

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	162	160	160	161
Chang Hwa Bk	121	117	117	120
Chiao Tung Bk	70	69	69	69.50
China Develpmt	118.50	115	115.50	117
China Steel	31.20	30.20	30.20	30.90
First Bank	120	117	117	119
Formosa Plastic	68.50	67	67	68
Hua Nan Bk	118.50	115	115	117.50
Intl Comm Bk	70	68	68	68.50
Nan Ya Plastics	72.50	71	71	72.50
Shin Kong Life	98	97	97	97.50
Taiwan Semi	104.50	102	102.50	103.50
Tatung	57	56	56	57
Utd Micro Elec	71.50	69	70.50	70
Utd World Chin	71	69.50	69.50	70.50

Tokyo
Nikkei 225: 20061.81 Previous: 20048.98

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1150	1130	1150	1130
All Nippon Air	785	777	784	777
Amway	3900	3830	3880	3820
Asahi Bank	800	784	793	787
Asahi Chem	709	694	703	714
Asahi Glass	1170	1140	1170	1180
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2090	2060	2070	2110
Bk Yokohama	535	530	531	527
Bridgestone	2830	2760	2800	2860
Canon	3250	3190	3210	3260
Chubu Elec	2070	2050	2070	2070
Chugoku Elec	2030	2010	2030	2030
Dai Nipp Print	2420	2380	2410	2400
Daiei	696	667	694	652
Dai-Ichi Kang	1470	1430	1470	1470
Daiwa Bank	426	420	425	427
Daiwa House	1370	1350	1370	1360
Daiwa Sec	892	873	876	900
DDI	8450a	8330a	8350a	8450a
Denso	3120	3000	3030	3130
East Japan Ry	5300a	5200a	5240a	5370a
Eisai	2370	2340	2360	2370
Fanuc	4270	4140	4270	4160
Fuji Bank	1490	1470	1490	1500
Fuji Photo	5110	4970	5030	5110
Fujitsu	1400	1380	1390	1400
Hachijuni Bk	1150	1130	1130	1130
Hitachi	1290	1260	1280	1280
Honda Motor	4180	4130	4150	4100
IBJ	1340	1310	1320	1350
IHI	491	481	489	483
Itochu	606	599	606	598
Ito-Yokado	6450	6360	6400	6440
JAL	530	520	525	526
Japan Tobacco	8310a	8230a	8300a	8280a
Jusco	3920	3900	3920	3960
Kajima	653	629	642	635
Kansai Elec	2220	2180	2190	2220
Kao	1520	1480	1500	1490
Kawasaki Hvy	535	527	532	535
Kawa Steel	386	379	386	389
Kinki Nipp Ry	711	707	707	708
Kirin Brewery	1180	1140	1160	1160
Kobe Steel	240	236	236	239
Komatsu	953	940	953	965
Kubota	590	570	576	592
Kyocera	7700	7630	7640	7710
Kyushu Elec	2040	2010	2020	2050
LTCB	360	347	348	364
Marubeni	505	493	505	503
Marui	2150	2110	2120	2140
Matsu Comm	3380	3330	3360	3400
Matsu Elec Ind	2300	2260	2270	2300
Matsu Elec Wk	1370	1320	1370	1340
Mitsubishi	1350	1310	1340	1330
Mitsubishi Ch	415	399	408	420
Mitsubishi El	723	712	719	721
Mitsubishi Est	1570	1540	1550	1560
Mitsubishi Hvy	859	850	854	858
Mitsubishi Mat	932	922	928	936
Mitsubishi Tr	1530	1500	1510	1530
Mitsui	987	970	979	990
Mitsui Fudosn	1400	1360	1380	1410
Mitsui Trust	820	801	820	813
Murata Mfg	4950	4880	4910	5010
NEC	1640	1620	1630	1640
Nikon	1900	1880	1890	1900
Nikko Sec	745	735	740	750
Nintendo	9360	9200	9360	9360
Nipp Express	887	871	887	882
Nippon Oil	633	616	625	615
Nippon Steel	386	381	385	387
Nissan Motor	808	802	805	805
NKK	278	274	276	281
Nomura Sec	1580	1560	1560	1580
NTT	9990a	9840a	9970a	9900a
NTT Data	4200b	4060b	4090b	4140b
Oji Paper	672	648	669	658
Osaka Gas	305	298	304	300
Ricoh	1560	1540	1540	1560
Rohm	10200	10200	10200	10200
Sakura Bk	696	688	693	697
Sankyo	3430	3390	3410	3440
Sanwa Bank	1440	1410	1440	1440
Sanyo Elec	525	518	524	525
Secom	7830	7730	7830	7730
Seibu Rwy	6170	6110	6170	6130
Sekisui Chem	1220	1210	1220	1240
Sekisui House	1200	1180	1190	1190
Seven-Eleven	8060	7990	8030	7990
Sharp	1730	1690	1710	1720
Shikoku El Pwr	1980	1960	1970	1990
Shimizu	660	637	660	637
Shin-etsu Ch	2750	2730	2730	2750
Shiseido	1700	1660	1690	1730
Shizuoka Bk	1150	1130	1140	1160
Softbank	7820	7650	7660	7650
Sony	9800	9630	9720	9630
Sumitomo	933	917	931	921
Sumitomo Bk	1550	1520	1540	1530
Sumit Chem	539	520	534	528
Sumitomo Elec	1810	1780	1790	1800
Sumit Metal	320	313	320	326
Sumit Trust	1210	1170	1180	1230
Taisho Pharm	3150	3090	3090	3100
Takeda Chem	2970	2920	2930	3000
TDK	9440	9270	9270	9350
Tohoku El Pwr	1990	1960	1960	2000
Tokai Bank	950	941	943	950
Tokio Marine	1420	1360	1400	1370
Tokyo El Pwr	2260	2220	2240	2270
Tokyo Electron	5140	5000	5000	5070
Tokyo Gas	298	292	295	299
Tokyu Corp.	657	647	652	658
Tonen	1290	1260	1290	1270
Toppan Print	1700	1670	1690	1710
Toray Ind	782	773	778	779
Toshiba	759	750	751	755
Tostem	3020	2980	3000	3000
Toyo Trust	900	891	900	903
Toyota Motor	3950	3880	3940	3940
Yamanouchi	2980	2890	2940	2870

a: x 100; b: x 1,000

The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	160.30	+0.97	+0.61	+7.48
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	118.52	+0.54	+0.46	-3.98
Europe	167.93	+1.00	+0.60	+4.17
N. America	186.53	+0.82	+0.44	+15.21
S. America	149.05	+2.78	+1.90	+30.25
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	195.84	+0.37	+0.19	+14.58
Consumer goods	183.22	+0.98	+0.54	+13.50
Energy	188.19	+1.19	+0.64	+10.24
Finance	117.40	+0.64	+0.55	+0.81
Miscellaneous	161.89	+1.77	+1.11	+0.07
Raw Materials	184.07	+0.73	+0.40	+4.95
Service	148.96	+1.66	+1.13	+8.48
Utilities	137.33	+1.39	+1.02	-4.27

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Compiled by Bloomberg News.

Toronto
TSE Industrials: 6185.30 Previous: 6121.52

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	24	23.40	23.80	23.60
Alberta Energy	30.35	29.60	30¼	29.65
Alcan Alum	49.85	47¾	48.80	48
Anderson Expl	18	17.85	17.90	17.85
Bk Montreal	52½	50¾	52.20	51½
Bk Nova Scotia	55.45	53.90	55.15	54.20
Barrick Gold	34.60	34	34¼	33.85
BCE	68.40	68.05	68¼	68.35
BC Telecomm	29.60	29.20	29.40	29.30
Biochem Pharm	30.90	30.40	30.70	30½
Bombardier B	27.90	27⅛	27.90	27.90
Brascan A	34.55	34.10	34.40	34.20
Bre-x Minerals	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09
Cameco	55⅝	51.20	53⅝	51
CIBC	33.20	32	33	32.10
Cdn Natl Rail	56.35	55⅛	55.90	55.80
Cdn Nat Res	36	34.85	35.65	34.95
Cdn Occid Pet	27⅜	27.35	27.70	27.60
Cdn Pacific	36.90	35.80	36.90	36.15
Cominco	37¼	36	37¼	36
Dofasco	24½	24	24.25	24.05
Domtar	11.60	11.55	11.55	11.65
Donohue A	29.30	28.40	29.20	28.90
Du Pont Cda A	35.40	34⅞	35.40	34.90
Edper Group	23.45	23.35	23.40	23.30
EuroNev Mng	41½	40¾	41	40½
Fairfax Finl	320	308	320	310
Falconbridge	30½	29.80	30.40	29.85
Fletcher Chall A	23.60	23¼	23½	23.40
Franco Nevada	65⅛	65¼	66	65½
Gulf Cda Res	11.30	10.80	11¼	11.05
Imperial Oil	63.95	63⅛	63.95	64
Inco	46.60	44.95	46.40	45.15
IPL Energy	42¼	42.25	42.60	42.65
Laidlaw B	18.80	18.60	18.65	18¾
Loewen Group	40.80	40.30	40.60	40.15
Macmillan Bldl	19.80	19.20	19.65	19.25
Magna Intl A	77¼	76	77.15	76.15
Methanex	13.10	13	13	13.15
Moore	29.35	28¾	29.15	29
Newbridge Net	48.40	47	48	47.35
Noranda Inc	31½	29.95	31.40	30.20
Norcen Energy	33¼	32.30	33	32.70
Nthern Telecom	106¼	102¼	106½	104
Nova	11.95	11.85	11.90	11.85
Onex	24.35	24	24.35	24.35
Pancdn Petlm	29¼	27.80	29.10	27.80
Petro Cda	22½	22.05	22.40	22.10
Placer Dome	26.20	25⅛	25.85	25.60
Poco Petlm	14.85	14.45	14.65	14.40
Potash Sask	112.45	111	111.80	111.65
Renaissance	39.90	38.90	39.30	39¼
Rio Algom	35.90	35.40	35.85	35½
Rogers Cantel B	23½	23.20	23¼	23.20
Seagram Co	54⅝	53.65	54.10	54⅛
Shell Cda A	57	56.55	57	57
Stone Consold	23.80	23.30	23¼	23.60
Suncor Energy	34.95	33½	34.55	33½
Talisman Eny	44.85	42	44	42½
Teck B	31	29	30.60	29.10
Teleglobe	44.20	42.85	43½	42¼
Telus	22.30	22.15	22.30	22.20
Thomson	30	29.55	29.55	30.30
TorDom Bank	41.30	39.80	40.90	39.95
Transalta	16.15	16	16.10	16.05
TransCda Pipe	25.85	25½	25.70	25.60
Trimark Finl	46.20	45½	46.10	45.55
Trizec Hahn	30	29¾	29.90	29¾
TVX Gold	9.15	8.85	9.05	8¾
Westcoast Eny	24.85	24.60	24.70	24.70
Weston	77½	76½	76½	77¼

Wellington
NZSE-40 Index: 2321.11 Previous: 2328.37

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	4.25	4.23	4.24	4.24
Brierly Invt	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.33
Carter Holt ord	3.30	3.24	3.26	3.25
Fletch Ch Bldg	4.25	4.11	4.18	4.15
Fletch Ch Eny	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.57
Fletch Ch Forst	2.10	2.04	2.05	2.10
Fletch Ch Paper	3.35	3.25	3.25	3.36
Lion Nathan	3.65	3.57	3.58	3.56
Telecom NZ	6.80	6.72	6.75	6.75
Wilson Horton	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

IHT TECHNOLOGY INDEX

All of the past month's technology articles from the IHT, now available on our site on the World Wide Web.

http://www.iht.com

Continued on Page 18

NEC Venture To Improve China's Chip Technology

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — NEC Corp., Japan's largest semiconductor producer, said Thursday it had reached a preliminary agreement to set up a chip-making venture in China as part of a $1 billion state-backed plan to bolster China's semiconductor technology.

NEC expects to provide Shanghai Huahong Microelectronics Co. with technology used to etch lines from 0.35 to 0.50 microns in width on 8-inch wafers, an NEC spokesman said. A final agreement would be a breakthrough for China, which currently only produces chips at a wider, less advanced 1 to 2 microns on 4- to 5-inch wafers, the China Daily said.

The venture plans to start producing 20,000 chips a month by 1998, the spokesman said. It will be capitalized at about $700 million, and NEC will hold a 30 percent stake.

China used 6.78 billion integrated-circuit chips last year, of which more than 80 percent were imported, the China Daily said. Domestic production in 1996 totaled 1.15 billion chips but is projected to rise to 2.5 billion a year by 2000.

China plans to create four or five chip producers, a dozen specialized chip plants and 20 research and design centers, the China Daily said.

NEC has another Chinese chip-making venture, set up in 1991 with a Beijing-based partner. The company has invested $468 million in China, the China Daily said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Asians Ready for U.S.-Vietnam Pact

Bloomberg News

HANOI — R.J. Gurley expects more factories to fill up his industrial park outside Hanoi if the United States grants most-favored-nation trading status to Vietnam.

But the factories probably will not be American, according to Mr. Gurley. They will be run by Taiwan and South Korean companies that export sneakers and T-shirts to the United States, getting the lower tariffs most- favored-nation status confers.

"Many Taiwanese and South Korean and Hong Kong companies say as soon as Vietnam has MFN, they'll get over here and start manufacturing right away," said the American, who is in charge of marketing the Thai industrial park. "American companies don't say that."

Asian companies in Vietnam will benefit more from the beneficial U.S. trade designation because their factories mostly produce goods for export, and there are more of them here. The Americans usually build factories to sell to the local market.

Hanoi and Washington, seeking to put behind them the enmity of the Vietnam War, have haggled for more than a year over a trade treaty. But both sides say they hope negotiations will speed up with the arrival Friday of the first U.S. ambassador to Hanoi, the former prisoner of war Pete Peterson.

Of the seven biggest investors in Taiwan, six are Asian: Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Malaysia. The seventh is the British Virgin Islands, a tax haven that in many cases is merely a front for an Asian company.

Oscar Martinez/Reuters

A Hanoi street stall selling American-style baseball caps Thursday.

The United States is ninth, and its ranking may fall following the decision by Chrysler Corp. to abandon plans for a $190 million car-assembly plant in Vietnam.

Most of the American investment, from Ford Motor Co.'s $103 million auto-assembly plant to Motorola Inc.'s aggressive marketing of telephones, pagers and radio products to Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc.'s joint ventures, looks forward to when the 77 million Vietnamese are no longer among the world's poorest people.

Instead, many of the Asian investors, especially those from Taiwan, are in Vietnam simply because labor is cheap.

The better-known American companies arrive with big public-relations machines to crack the Vietnamese market. Pou Chen Corp., Pang Rim Spinning Co. and the others quietly build factories and begun exporting garments, shoes and textiles.

"We will be very happy to have Mr. Peterson here," said C.J. Hsu, director of economics at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hanoi, in effect Taiwan's embassy.

"We foresee good times between the United States and Vietnam, and therefore for Taiwanese companies as well."

The Americans, meanwhile, are having a tough time trying to sell inside Vietnam. Because Vietnam's trade deficit is soaring, the Communist government prefers its foreign investors to export The deficit, $4 billion last year, equals almost a fifth of gross domestic product.

Foreigners selling to the Vietnamese market also compete against state-owned companies, many of which are already in dire straits.

■ *Hyundai Expects Approval*

Hyundai Motor Co. said Thursday that it expected to finally win approval to build a joint venture plant in Vietnam by July, Reuters reported from Seoul.

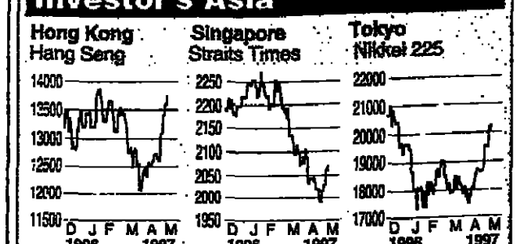
"The possibility to get the license in the first half is significantly over 50 percent from an earlier 50-50 percent chance," said a Hyundai spokesman, Min Kyong Hwan. "The Vietnamese government is starting to favor Hyundai."

Hyundai Motor, a flagship affiliate of South Korea's largest conglomerate, said it would invest about $220 million in the plant, in which the company is expected to hold a 65 percent stake.

The plant, which will be located near Ho Chi Minh City, will be able to make 10,000 vehicles a year.

If Hyundai wins the license, Mr. Min said, the company would increase local production of auto components by extending technical tie-ups.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	13,740.30	13,605.91	+0.99
Singapore	Straits Times	2,059.38	2,068.13	-0.42
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,504.70	2,517.60	-0.51
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20,261.81	20,048.90	+1.06
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	Closed	1,107.14	-
Bangkok	SET	614.06	626.57	-2.00
Seoul	Composite Index	684.69	689.10	-0.64
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,349.85	8,427.07	-0.92
Manila	PSE	2,682.10	2,694.40	-0.46
Jakarta	Composite Index	Closed	666.84	-
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,321.11	2,328.37	-0.31
Bombay	Sensitive Index	Closed	3,753.50	-

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Hong Kong Telecommunications Ltd.'s** shares rose 6 percent, to close at 15 Hong Kong dollars ($1.94), after the company reported a 12.5 percent rise in profit for the year that ended in March, to 11.18 billion dollars; the stock has risen 14 percent this week on speculation that its parent company, **Cable & Wireless PLC**, would sell a controlling stake to mainland Chinese interests.

• **China** posted a 12 percent rise in industrial output in April from a year earlier, to 174.3 billion yuan ($20.94 billion). State companies managed growth of just 6 percent, while collective enterprises' output gained 14.3 percent, and industrial production in the private sector rose 14.6 percent.

• **Guangzhou** city officials are considering **Honda Motor Co., General Motors Corp.'s Adam Opel AG, Hyundai Motors Co.** and **Bayerische Motoren Werke AG** to replace **PSA Peugeot Citroen**, which withdrew from a joint auto-making venture with the city.

• **Japan** took a key step toward allowing companies to offer stock options as incentives to employees; the lower house of Parliament passed a law allowing companies to buy back 10 percent of their own shares for stock-option plans.

• **Yamaichi Securities Co.** is considering closing its Osaka-based **Ogawa Securities Co.** or merging the troubled unit with another affiliate, a move that set off a period of consolidation in Japan's securities industry

• **Monte de Piedad & Savings Bank**, the Philippine bank partly owned by the local Catholic Church that had to shut down last month to stop a run of withdrawals, reopened after being rescued by Singapore's **Keppel** group of companies.

• **Taiwan's** central bank expects the economy to grow 6.2 percent this year and sees no reason to change monetary policy, its governor said. The Taiwan economy grew 5.71 percent in 1996, its slowest growth in six years, amid tension with China and lower prices for industrial materials.

• **Kobe Steel Ltd.** plans over the next three years to spend 220 billion yen ($1.76 billion) on product development and to cut costs by 30 billion yen.

AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

'Star Wars' Bolsters News Corp. Profit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SYDNEY — The Force was with Rupert Murdoch last quarter, but disaster may be about to strike, analysts said Thursday.

News Corp.'s net profit surged to 330 million Australian dollars ($256 million) in its third quarter to March 31, from 77 million dollars a year ago, fueled by the success of the re-release of its "Star Wars" trilogy and purchase of New World Communications Group Inc.

But the expense of filming two disaster movies — "Volcano" and "Titanic" — is likely to slash film revenue this quarter and next. "Volcano" reportedly cost about $100 million to make but had a gross of only $27 million at the box office through May 5.

The release of "Titanic," reputedly the most expensive movie ever made, has been pushed back past the traditional U.S. opening date of July 4.

"Titanic won't affect them this year, but Volcano will be a loss-maker," a Melbourne analyst said.

News Corp. shares fell 5 cents to close at $6.01.

But News Corp. was optimistic about the fourth quarter, and some analysts said the company was on track to exceed its promised 20 percent growth in full-year earnings. News Corp.'s revenue for the quarter rose 23 percent, to 3.7 billion Australian dollars.

The company's 20th Century Fox film unit drove the earnings higher during the quarter as operating profit rose 36 percent after the strong box office performance of the "Star Wars" trilogy, which generated $249 million in revenue in two months.

A decline in newsprint prices also buttressed the results. Earnings from newspapers in Britain rose 47 percent as advertising revenue rose at each of the company's four newspaper titles.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

New Apple Notebook: An IBM

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Apple Computer Inc. said Thursday it would start selling a smaller, lighter version of its PowerBook notebook computer manufactured by its former rival, IBM Corp.

The PowerBook 2400c, which weighs 4.4 pounds, is the first computer with Apple's Macintosh operating system to be made by IBM.

The new model will be released in Japan later this month and in the United States by the end of July. It is expected to sell for about $3,500.

IBM is part of a consortium with Apple and Motorola Inc. that designed and makes the PowerPC microprocessor at the heart of all current Apple Macintosh models.

As part of that arrangement, IBM has a license to use the Macintosh operating system, but so far has not released any Mac clones under its own name.

Finding Oil for Asia

Tokyo Group Proposes Buyers' Cartel

Reuters

TOKYO — An Asian OPEC? Well, not exactly.

But an influential Japanese business group is pushing for an Asian oil-buyers' cartel that would oversee the country's negotiations with oil.

The idea is that such a cartel could use the collective buying power of Asia's booming economies to secure better terms from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other oil-sellers.

"In essence, the cartel would serve as a countermeasure to big producers, an organization in the image of OPEC that would serve Asia's oil-consuming countries," a representative of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives said. The business group, which proposed the idea in a report submitted last month to Japan's Foreign Ministry and its Ministry of International Trade and Industry, is still awaiting a response to the proposal.

The report said the cartel should operate under the auspices of the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and should be based in Tokyo. It said the huge growth in oil demand in Asia meant that countries should hold talks aimed at coordinating their oil-buying policies.

Analysts said the idea reflected the changing balance of power among Asia's major oil importers.

"There's a lot more competition on the demand side in Asia than there was 10 years ago," said Paul Horsnell, chief of Asia-Middle East studies at the Oxford Institute of Energy Economics in England.

Mr. Horsnell said some APEC members, such as the United States, would be against such a cartel but that it would benefit Asia's so-called tiger economies as well as Japan, the region's largest importer.

In this Saturday's

MONEY

M & A

How have the stocks & bonds of companies making major acquisitions fared?

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GERMANY*	DEM	182	72	60%
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GREECE	DR	18,200	9,100	50%
IRELAND	IR£	52	26	50%
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NETHERLANDS	NLG	195	78	60%
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PepsiCo Plans Public Offering In New Zealand

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AUCKLAND — PepsiCo Inc. said Thursday it would spin off its Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut restaurants in New Zealand with an international public offering in a new company called Restaurant Brands NZ Ltd.

PepsiCo is divesting its restaurant units worldwide to concentrate on franchising and brand development.

Restaurant Brands is to offer 85 million shares, representing 100 percent of the company, for between 1.80 and 2.20 New Zealand dollars ($1.23 and $1.50) each. If the price is at the high end of that range, Restaurant Brands would be among New Zealand's top 40 companies by market capitalization.

Restaurant Brands will run the 122 fast-food restaurants under long-term franchise agreements. Jim Collier of PepsiCo is to be chief executive of the new company.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Daily news from the Dutch business weekly The Netherlander?

www.netherlander.com

(Dutch business news in brief on internet)

The Netherlander
ROCK-SOLID AND UNIQUE

NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 P.M.

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The Associated Press.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

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May 6, 1997

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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL
SPORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Muster, the Master, Is Crushed on Dust

TENNIS Thomas Muster, the No. 1 seed, suffered one of his most lopsided defeats on his best surface, red clay, 6-1, 6-2 to Hicham Arazi in the third round of the $2.3 million German Open on Thursday.

Arazi, a 23-year-old Moroccan who is based in France, outplayed Muster at the Austrian's own game, winning the long rallies and hitting powerful winners from all over the court. Arazi will play 12th-seeded Felix Mantilla, who beat Boris Becker, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2. Yevgeni Kafelnikov beat Slava Dosedel, 6-2, 6-1, to reach his first quarterfinal of the year.

Albert Costa, one of several players who had to play twice on Thursday, first beat Sjeng Schalken, then beat Alex Corretja, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the quarterfinals.

• The Italian Open women's tournament was hit by rain Thursday. After a five hour delay, Conchita Martinez, the third seed and winner at the Foro Italico clay court tournament for four successive seasons, took on Elena Likhovtseva and built a 6-2, 2-0 lead before rain interrupted play again.

• Martina Hingis, who injured her knee falling off a horse last month, says she expects to be fit for the French Open. *(AP)*

Chiappucci Suspended

CYCLING Claudio Chiappucci, a leading Italian rider, was forced out of the Tour of Romandie on Thursday after failing a blood test. He was suspended for 15 days and will miss the Giro d'Italia. *(Reuters)*

Yankees Anger League

BASEBALL George Steinbrenner faces suspension from baseball's ruling executive council for suing the sport over the Yankees' Adidas deal, two baseball officials, who did not wish to be identified, said Wednesday. The council could also start an investigation that could lead to the owner's third suspension from control of his team. *(AP)*

Denny McLain Jailed

BASEBALL Denny McLain, the last pitcher to win 30 games in a season, was sentenced to eight years in prison and ordered to pay $2.5 million Wednesday for stealing from the pension plan of a meat packing company that went bankrupt 18 months after he bought it. *(AP)*

Draft Pick Arrested

FOOTBALL James Darling, a second-round draft choice of the Philadelphia Eagles, was arrested for assault and burglary this week on the Washington State campus, his fourth arrest in the past two years.

A deputy prosecutor said the former Washington State linebacker had been drinking and was trying to find a person he planned to beat up in a dispute over a woman. *(AP)*

Riley Wins 3d Award

BASKETBALL Pat Riley, who guided the Miami Heat to the Atlantic Division title, was chosen NBA Coach of the Year for the third time Thursday — with a third different team.

Riley, who also won the honor with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1990 and the New York Knicks in 1993, received 69 votes of a possible 115 from sports writers. Charlotte's Dave Cowens finished second with 22 votes. *(AP)*

Knicks Look Good, Maybe Unstoppable

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service

MIAMI — Granted, it's early. Still, there's one team that looks better than all the rest so far in these NBA playoffs.

The New York Knicks.

They've recorded four impressive victories in four games to this point, not a nail-bitter or last-second thriller in the bunch.

The New York Knicks are definitely the best team in the East right now — yes, better than the Chicago Bulls.

Don't let New York's 88-79 victory over Miami on Wednesday fool you. It wasn't that close. Granted, once again, it was only Game 1, but to a lot of us it looked as if the Knicks delivered such a first-round haymaker, this series might not be as contentious as we thought.

Yes, the Knick teams we've seen over the years were always capable of undoing anything positive. But as John Starks said, "This team is different. We're a very strong team. We've got more balance, especially on the offensive end. Normally, if I have an off shooting night, we're in trouble. Now, even if two guys are off, we've got enough talent to win ballgames."

Sweeping Charlotte was impressive for starters. But the Knicks were even more precise, more thorough, more alert, more disciplined and mentally tougher in beating Miami here in Game 1.

You want an indication of how locked-in the Knicks were? They hit 30 of 32 free throws.

Starks missed 7 of his 8 shots, Patrick Ewing missed 15 of 23 and starting point guard Chris Childs sank one basket the entire game, but the Knicks rolled right along, which they simply couldn't do in previous playoff games against worthy teams.

It's almost amazing that the Knicks could look so sorry and no-account in the final 10 days of the regular season, then find such a fine stride in almost no time.

Larry Johnson, who three weeks ago seemed completely lost, scored 14 points and kept the Knicks even early. Allan Houston, who was hearing boos in Madison Square Garden only a couple of weeks ago, scored a game-high 27 and led a 16-0 surge in the third quarter that buried Miami. Charlie Ward, the backup point guard Pat Riley just wouldn't play when he was head coach in New York, came off the bench and directed a concerto in 18 tenacious minutes.

There was no hint whatsoever that Miami won 61 games during the regular season to claim the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

While the Knicks got meaningful contributions from seven players, only three guys showed up for Miami. And while Alonzo Mourning scored 20 points, he got himself in early foul trouble, grabbed only six rebounds and was taken to school by Ewing, who grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked five shots.

Voshon Lenard, Jamal Mashburn and P.J. Brown, all playing in their first meaningful playoff games, were dreadful.

It's funny how quickly the pendulum can swing. Only a week ago, Miami pounded Orlando and looked positively ferocious. But two Penny Hardaway eruptions sucked all the confidence out of the Heat and they can't seem to get it back.

The Knicks, nearly left for dead, won a regular season finale at Chicago and instantly convinced themselves that they are world-beaters.

"Certain games bring you together," Starks said. "The last game of the season, at Chicago, was one of them. The other game at Chicago, even though we lost, was another. We were down, I think, 17 and came back when in the past, I can tell you, we would have given up and gotten blown out."

Over in the other corner of the locker room, Charles Oakley talked about the metamorphosis. It was Oakley, after Madison Square Garden losses to New Jersey, Cleveland and Orlando, who said his team had never played so poorly late in the season.

"Nobody got mad at me, I don't think," Oakley said. "We'd just lost too many games we shouldn't have. We had too much talent."

It seemed the Knicks of the Ewing era had never had this much talent. It seemed they didn't know quite how to fit Johnson, Houston and Childs in with Ewing, Oakley and Starks. "There's no easy answer," Starks said. "I think it was a case of continuing to work at it. It takes time, and sometimes you can't project how much time."

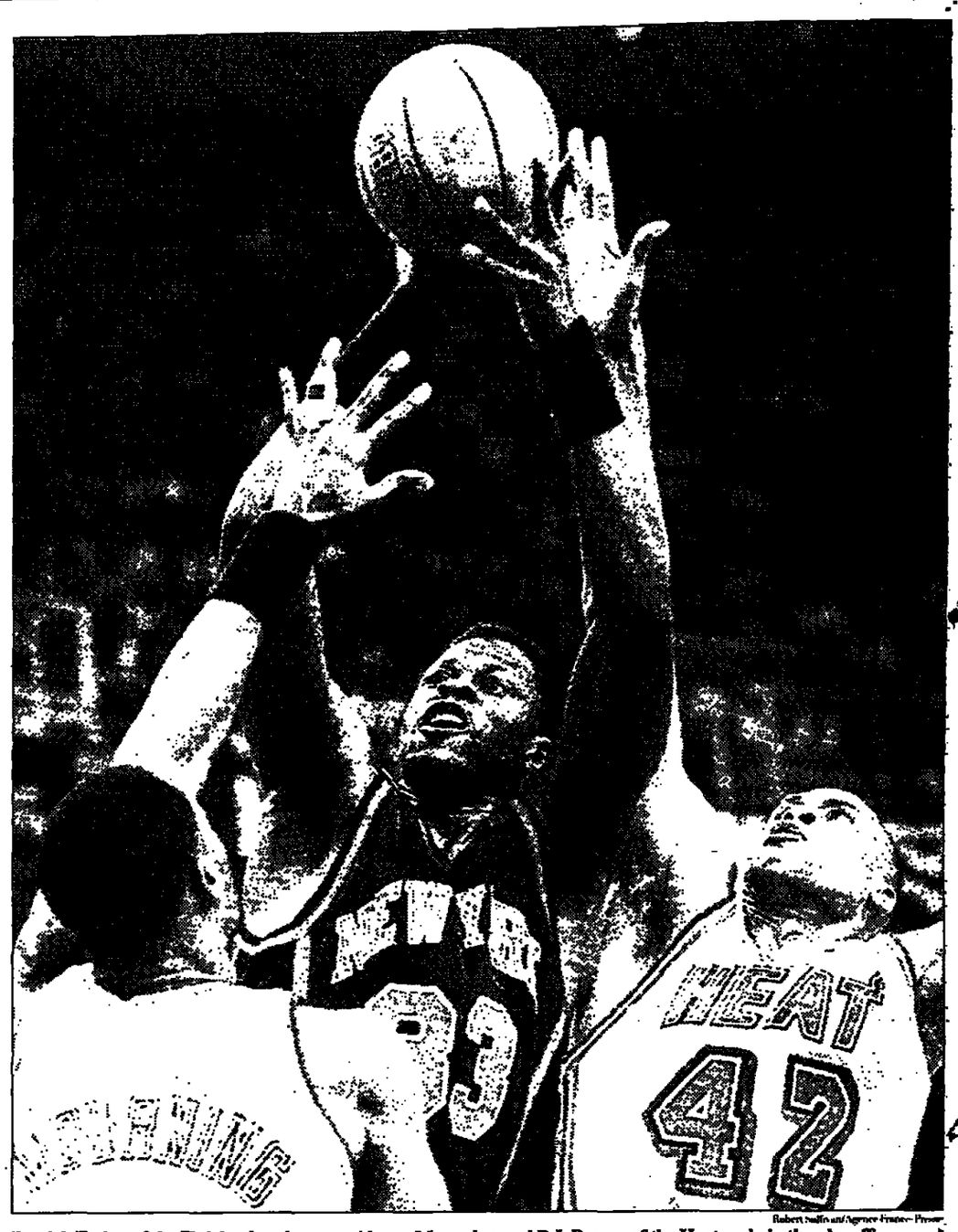
Sometimes you can't see it coming, it just locks in almost all at once. It happened to the Bulls at about this point of the 1991 playoffs when they needed only five games to dismiss the 76ers. The Knicks had that championship look when they went 16-0 on Miami.

You expect the New York defense to be stingy, and it was, but the Knicks had better ball movement, spacing and jump shooting than they've had at any time since — well — 1973.

It doesn't seem like such a stretch if you consider that while these Knicks have won four successive playoff games, Pat Riley's Knicks (including the team that got to the 1994 finals) never once swept a series. The Ewing-era Knicks have never played this well over four consecutive playoff games.

And now, Miami isn't down just one game. Miami is down.

If it doesn't get the Knicks on Friday here in Game 2, it's going to be tough not only for the Heat but for anybody else to stop the Knicks.



Robert Sullin and Agence France-Presse

Patrick Ewing of the Knicks shooting over Alonzo Mourning and P.J. Brown of the Heat early in the playoff game.

Sonics Get Revenge on Rockets

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Shawn Kemp had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and Sam Perkins battled Hakeem Olajuwon to a standoff as the Seattle SuperSonics built a big halftime lead and then held on for a 106-101 victory over the Houston Rockets that evened their Western Conference semifinal series at one game each.

"We put pressure on them and tried to get good shots on every possession," Perkins said.

"The game was decided by our aggressiveness on defense."

Perkins, who got a rare start at center, scored 18 points, only one fewer than Olajuwon.

"I tried to take away what he likes," said Perkins, who started only four games in the regular season. He made four 3-pointers, including a crucial one with 3:45 left after the Rockets had pulled within two points.

Hersey Hawkins added 21 points for Seattle, which led by 18 at halftime before Houston rallied in the second half.

The SuperSonics, who lost the series opener 112-102, went on a 31-8 run in the second quarter to take a 65-47 halftime lead.

But the Rockets stormed back in the second half, scoring nine straight points to cut Seattle's lead to 90-88 with 4:04 left. The spurt featured a three-point play by Olajuwon, a 3-pointer by Clyde Drexler, a tip-in by Olajuwon and a free throw by Mario Elie.

Perkins then hit a 3-pointer to put the Sonics up 93-88, and they held on behind the scoring of Kemp and Detlef Schrempf. Kemp scored seven points, and Schrempf made four free throws down the stretch. Seattle was 31 of 33 from the line.

Drexler led the Rockets with 25 points and eight assists. Charles Barkley finished with 21 points, including a pair of 3-pointers in the final minute.

Expos Give Giants a 19-3 Pounding

Lansing Hits 2 Home Runs in Montreal's 13-Run 6th Inning

The Associated Press

The Montreal Expos set the tone for a high-scoring day in the National League with a 13-run, 13-hit, half-hour long sixth inning in an afternoon game in San Francisco.

Mike Lansing hit two home runs in the inning as the Expos, who scored 18 runs in the fifth and sixth innings, pounded the Giants 19-3 Wednesday.

Henry Rodriguez hit a grand slam to highlight a five-run fifth inning. Then the real fireworks started.

With the Expos leading 6-3, Mark Grudzielanek opened the sixth with a single off reliever Joe Roa. Lansing followed with his third homer of the season.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Rondell White singled, and David Segui doubled, knocking out Roa. With Jim Poole pitching, F.P. Santangelo and Vladimir Guerrero had RBI singles. Doug Strange singled and Chris Widger had a two-run single to make it 12-3.

Jeff Juden then struck out, but the hitting immediately resumed. Grudzielanek singled, and Lansing hit a three-run homer off Julian Tavarez, giving him five runs batted in for the inning.

After White grounded out for the second out, Segui singled and Santangelo doubled. Guerrero was hit by a pitch to load the bases, and Strange followed with a three-run double.

Widger grounded to first to end the inning.

Lansing became the 18th NL player to hit two homers in an inning. The previous one was Chicago's Sammy Sosa on May 16, 1996.

"It was pretty much a disaster, but it's something you have to deal with in baseball," said Jeff Kent of San Francisco. "It's disappointing because we were in this game."

The Expos, who trailed, 3-1, in the fifth inning, batted for 30 minutes in their half of the sixth against three Giants relievers.

"It was a crazy inning. No matter who we sent in, it was like throwing gasoline on the fire," said Dusty Baker, the Giants manager.

The 13 runs were an NL record for a sixth inning. The 18 runs in consecutive innings broke the post-1900 NL record of 17 set by the New York Giants against the Boston Braves on Sept. 3, 1926 — when they scored five in the fourth and 12 in the fifth.

The AL record for runs in consecutive innings is 19. The pre-1900 NL record is 21.

Cardinals 14, Phillies 7 In St. Louis, Ray Lankford hit a grand slam to cap a nine-run seventh inning as St. Louis beat Philadelphia.

Ron Gant hit a two-run homer for the second straight night, and Gary Gaetti broke a 1-for-15 slump with a three-run in the seventh-inning outburst.

Pirates 14, Rockies 3 Light-hitting Pittsburgh slugged five home runs in Denver to beat Colorado.

The Pirates, who came into the game tied for the fewest home runs in the majors (14), hit five homers for the first time since June 20, 1987.

Al Martin, Jason Kendall, Kevin Elster, Jose Guillen and Joe Randa all reached the seats for the Pirates.

Andres Galarraga had two solo home runs for the Rockies.

Mets 4, Astros 1 Pinch-hitter Butch Huskey's two-run homer in the ninth inning helped visiting New York win at Houston.

Dodgers 4, Reds 2 Ramon Martinez won his ninth straight regular-season start against Cincinnati by pitching eight strong innings for host Los Angeles.

Martinez struck out six and walked three to end a three-game winless streak.

Padres 6, Cubs 3 John Flaherty drove in three runs on three hits, including a home run, as host San Diego beat Chicago.

In American League games:

Yankees 5, Rangers 2 Tino Martinez, the Yankees' first baseman, put the finishing touch on New York's victory over visiting Texas night with his 14th home run of the season.

Martinez has 13 hits in his last 23 at-bats. He moved into a tie with Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. for the major-league lead with 14 homers and knocked in his major-league leading 43d run.

Texas led 1-0 in the first inning, but New York made it 4-1 in the second.

Will Clark's run-scoring double in the third inning cut the lead to 4-2 before Martinez hit a home run in the bottom of the inning off John Burkett (1-2).

Martinez is more than halfway to his 1996 home run total of 25.

"We made one mistake to him, and he didn't miss it," Texas manager Johnny Oates said.

Brewers 1, Athletics 0 In the longest 1-0, nine-inning game in major-league history — 3 hours, 20 minutes — Jeff Cirillo's seventh-inning run-scoring single was the difference as Oakland's Scott Brosius was thrown out at the plate for the game's final out in Milwaukee.

With two outs in the ninth, pinch-hitter Matt Stairs singled, but right fielder Jeromy Burnitz threw out Brosius on a close play.

Brosius and manager Art Howe were ejected by plate umpire Dale Ford for arguing the call even though the game was over.

Replays were inconclusive.

Previously, the longest 1-0, nine-inning game was May 17, 1988, when the Mets beat the Padres in 3 hours, 7 minutes.

Indians 7, Blue Jays 1 In Cleveland, the Indians hit four more homers, giving them a major-league leading 59.

Tony Fernandez and Jim Thome hit consecutive homers in the first inning. In a four-run fifth, Grissom led off with a home run, and David Justice capped the inning with a three-run shot — his 10th home run of the year.

Red Sox 11, Twins 3 At Fenway Park, Scott Hatteberg and Reggie Jefferson each hit two homers and drove in four runs as Boston snapped a four-game losing streak.

For Hatteberg, who has become the personal catcher for Aaron Sele (4-1), the homers were the first two of his career.

Orioles 3, Angels 0 In Baltimore, Jimmy Key (6-0) won his sixth game with six scoreless innings and lowered his earned run average to 1.93. Randy Myers picked up his 13th save.

Tigers 12, Royals 3 In Detroit, the Tigers broke out of a scoring slump with homers by Tony Clark, Travis Fryman and Bobby Higginson.

• The Seattle Mariners-Chicago White Sox game was rained out.

Marty Lederhandler/The Associated Press

Jeromy Burnitz of the Milwaukee Brewers sliding safely past the Oakland Athletics catcher George Williams. Burnitz scored on a single by Jeff Cirillo.

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SPORTS

Oilers Narrow Series to 2-1 With Victory Over Avalanche

The Associated Press

Kelly Buchberger scored twice, including the tying goal late in the third period, and Ryan Smyth added the winner 2:18 later as the Edmonton Oilers beat the Colorado Avalanche, 4-3.

The victory in front of a delirious sellout crowd in Edmonton on Wednesday night cut Colorado's lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series to 2-1, with Game 4 to be played Friday night in Edmonton.

The victory gave the Oilers new life after it appeared they were headed for a 3-0 series deficit to the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Edmonton was trailing, 3-2, with less than seven minutes left in regulation. But Buchberger — the only Oiler remaining from the club's Stanley Cup years in the late 1980s and 1990 — scored his fifth goal of the playoffs on a rebound to pull Edmonton even.

With 3:45 left, Smyth scored on a disputed play as he converted a centering pass past Colorado's goaltender, Patrick Roy. The Avalanche claimed Smyth was in the crease, but the goal was allowed following a video review.

The Avalanche had looked secure as they took a 3-2 lead into the final period on the strength of a six-point outing from the line of Peter Forsberg, Claude Lemieux and Valery Kamensky, each getting a goal and an assist.

But the line of Buchberger, Smyth and center Jason Arnott outdid one of the most explosive units in hockey, finishing with eight points. Arnott, who has been criticized for lackadaisical play, had a goal and two assists.

Forsberg left the game midway through the third period after being upended by one of the Oilers' defenseman, Bryan Muir, and falling head-over-heels to the ice. He was diagnosed with a minor concussion and did not return.

The Avalanche's coach, Marc Crawford, complained about the winning goal and

NHL Roundup

about the check that knocked Forsberg out of the game. But he said his club lost because it weakened defensively.

"Peter was playing well at the time, but we still should have been able to persevere and continue through," he said. "They did a good job of pouring the puck to the net, they were insistent on getting there, and we were a little soft in our coverage and didn't play with a great deal of confidence in the last seven or eight minutes."

On Buchberger's first-period goal, the Oilers' winger scored from near the boards into an unguarded net after Smyth bumped an Avalanche defenseman, Jon Klemm, into Roy, who fell hopelessly out of position.

Flyers 4, Sabres 1 In Philadelphia, Paul Coffey symbolically established the Philadelphia Flyers' dominance before the game, then confirmed it with his play in the first period.

After a pregame showdown with Buffalo's enforcer, Matthew Barnaby, Coffey assisted on three first-period goals as the Flyers cruised to victory over the Sabres in Game 3. Philadelphia can sweep the series with a victory in Game 4 on Friday.

The smaller Sabres have attempted to stand up to the Flyers — a big team that plays a physically intimidating game — even in such seemingly insignificant matters as the pregame skate. The teams almost went at it before the game, when Barnaby and Coffey battled over Coffey's continued trespassing onto Buffalo's half of the ice.

"He said, 'Cross the red line one more time,' so what do you think I did? I crossed the red line," Coffey said.

Barnaby, an agitator who had 249 penalty minutes this season, had enough.

"He came skating over the red line a few times, so I took a swack at him," Barnaby said. "He came over again and I took it on myself to slash him. I tried to break his ankle. It didn't work."

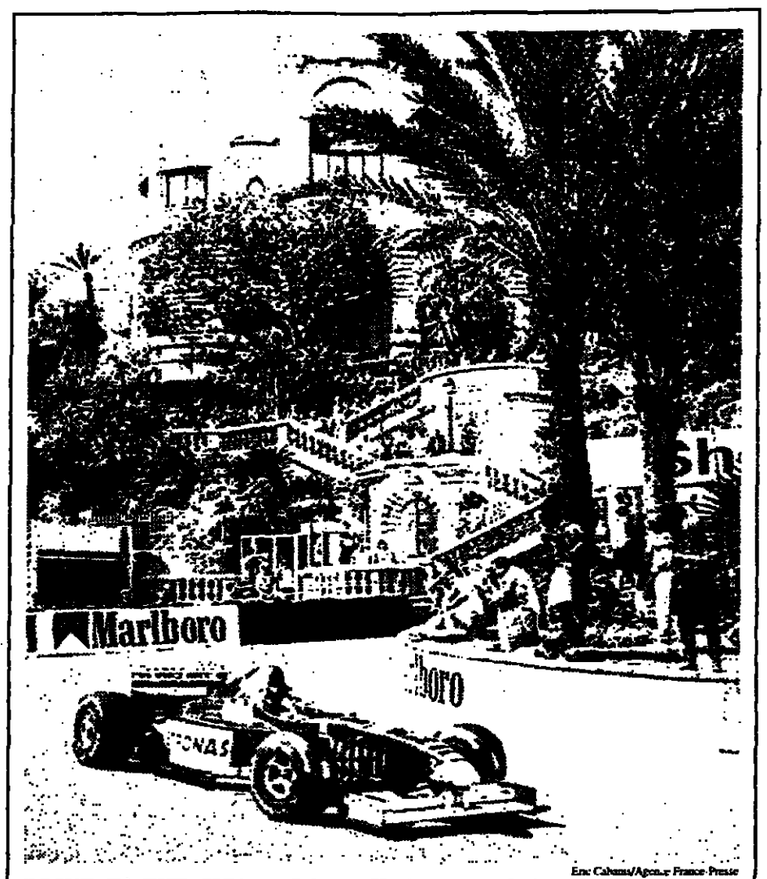
It certainly didn't. Eight minutes into the game, while the Flyers were on the power play, Coffey lofted a pass from near the blue line to Eric Lindros standing alone in front of the Buffalo net.

Lindros grabbed the chest-high pass, dropped the puck to the ice, then spun for a turnaround shot that beat the goalie, Steve Shields, between the legs.

Coffey's second big play came about four minutes later, when Buffalo once again had somebody in the penalty box. Coffey zipped a pass up from near his blue line to Dale Hawerchuk streaking down the left wing.

Hawerchuk's slap shot whistled past Shields, and the Flyers were up 2-0.

Coffey and Hawerchuk also teamed to set up Rod Brind'Amour's goal, which came after Darryl Shannon's power-play goal had cut the Philadelphia lead to 2-1 with five minutes to play in the first period.



Eric Cabanis/Agence France-Presse

DRIVE IN THE SUN — Johnny Herbert negotiating the Loews curve Thursday in practice for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. Herbert, in a Sauber powered by a Petronas-Ferrari engine, recorded the fastest qualifying time.

Sweden Reaches Ice Hockey Final

The Associated Press

HELSINKI — Jorgen Jonsson scored a late goal, and goalie Tommy Salo made several stunning saves Thursday as Sweden beat the Czech Republic, 1-0, to advance to the final of the World Hockey Championships.

The other finalist will be determined in Friday's match when Canada faces Russia.

The only goal came at 11:44 of the final period when Jonsson fired a rocket between the pads of Czech goalie Roman Cechmanek.

Earlier, Swedish goalie Salo made a series of saves, including two final period one-on-one breaks by Jiri Dopita.

"I can't believe the saves Salo made," Dopita said.

The Czechs played without Vladimir Vujtek, who suffered mild concussion during the brawl at the end of Wednesday's game with Canada in which he scored a hat-trick.

Schalke Has Edge In Dreary Final

Reuters

A spectacular goal from Marc Wilmots of Belgium gave Schalke of Germany a 1-0 victory over Inter Milan in Gelsenkirchen in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final.

Just as a dismal game seemed to be heading toward

Soccer Roundup

a goalless draw Wednesday, Wilmots picked up the ball in the middle of the Inter half in the 70th minute, took a few strides forward and fired the ball low into the goal.

Apart from that, Schalke did not produce any scoring chances.

Inter, which was missing Jocelyn Angloma, Youri Djorkaeff and Paul Ince because of suspension, also struggled and managed just one dangerous shot on goal.

NETHERLANDS Roda JC Kerkrade beat Heerenveen, 4-2, in the Dutch Cup final in Rotterdam on Thursday.

The game opened with three goals in 16 minures. Gerald Sibon put Roda ahead. Igor Korneev leveled but Gerrie Senden restored the lead. Eric van de Luer and Maarten Schops put Roda ahead, 4-1, in the second half.

SOUTH AMERICA River Plate of Argentina, the defending champion, tumbled out of the South American Libertadores Cup on Wednesday, losing on penalties to Racing Club.

Enzo Francescoli was hero and villain for River, scoring his team's goal in a 1-1 draw but missing its first penalty of the shoot-out.

SCOTLAND Brian Laudrup scored the only goal as Rangers beat Dundee United, 1-0, to clinch the Premier League title.

Japan's Soccer League Suffers Drop in Crowds

Reuters

TOKYO — Japan's professional soccer league, born on a wave of optimism five years ago, is going through hard times.

A record low crowd of only 2,245 turned up on Wednesday night for a match between JEF United and Sanfrecce Hiroshima at Ichihara stadium reflecting the game's struggle to hold onto the fans.

The latest setback for a sport that was hoping to latch onto the coattails of the 2002 World Cup comes despite the continued inflow of foreign players. The J-League's overall attendance target for this season is 5 million, or an average of 15,000, compared with the goal of 6 million, which was easily reached in 1995.

This year crowds are averaging between 10,000 and 12,000 — compared with 17,000 in the first four years.

"We're not really concerned," said Mitsunori Fujiguchi, the deputy-secretary of the J-League. "In some ways the temporary fashion of the J-League is being stripped away and that's allowing the core support to come out clearly."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	21	9	.700	—
New York	18	15	.545	4½
Toronto	15	15	.500	6
Boston	15	16	.484	6½
Detroit	13	19	.406	9

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland	16	14	.533	—
Milwaukee	15	14	.517	½
Kansas City	15	15	.500	1
Minnesota	13	20	.394	4½
Chicago	10	19	.345	5½

WEST DIVISION

Seattle	19	12	.613	—
Texas	16	13	.552	2
Anaheim	14	16	.467	4½
Oakland	15	18	.455	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	23	9	.719	—
Montreal	17	14	.548	5½
Florida	17	15	.531	6
New York	16	17	.485	7½
Philadelphia	10	21	.323	12½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Houston	18	15	.545	—
Pittsburgh	17	15	.531	½
St. Louis	15	17	.469	2½
Cincinnati	10	22	.313	7½
Chicago	8	23	.258	9

WEST DIVISION

Colorado	21	10	.677	—
San Francisco	19	12	.613	2
Los Angeles	18	13	.581	3
San Diego	12	18	.400	8½

WEDNESDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Oakland	000 000 000—0	4	0
Milwaukee	000 000 10x—1	7	1

Karsay, S. Montgomery (7), A. Small (7), Groom (8), Wengert (9) and Ga.Williams; D'Amico, Peters (7), Do.Jones (9) and Matheny, Levis (8). W—Peters, 1-0. L—S. Montgomery, 0-1. Sv—Do.Jones (6).

Toronto	000 100 000—1	7	0
Cleveland	200 140 00x—7	15	0

Person, Flener (2), Timlin (5), Quantrill (8) and O'Brien; J.McDowell, Mesa (9) and S. Alomar, Borders (9). W—J. McDowell, 3-2. L—Person, 0-2. HRs—Cleveland, Justice (10), Grissom (2), Thome (6), T.Fernandez (3).

Minnesota	001 000 011—3	8	1
Boston	300 241 10x—11	14	0

Radke, Ritchie (5), Olson (8) and Steinbach, Myers (8); Sele, Trlicek (8), Lacy (9) and Hatteberg. W—Sele, 4-1. L—Radke, 2-2. HRs—Boston, Hatteberg 2(2), Jefferson 2(5).

Anaheim	000 000 000—0	8	0
Baltimore	200 100 00x—3	7	0

Watson, Holtz (8) and Leyritz; Key, Orosco (7), A. Benitez (8), Ra.Myers (9) and Hollies. W—Key, 6-0. L—Watson, 1-3. Sv—Ra.Myers (13). HR—Baltimore, Hollies (4).

Kansas City	200 001 000—3	9	1
Detroit	240 150 00x—12	11	2

Pittsley, R. Veres (2), Mt.Williams (5), J. Montgomery (7), J.Walker (8) and Spehr; Lira, Bautista (7), M. Myers (9) and Casanova. W—Lira, 1-2. L—Pittsley, 0-3. HRs—Detroit, Higginson (4), Fryman (7), Ta.Clark (10).

Texas	101 000 000—2	9	0
New York	041 000 00x—5	8	2

Burkett, Gunderson (8) and I. Rodriguez; Cone, Nelson (7), M.Rivera (9) and Girardi. W—Cone, 4-2. L—Burkett, 1-2. Sv—M. Rivera (10). HR—New York, T. Martinez (14).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal	001 05(13) 000—19	26	0
San Francisco	210 00 0 000—3	8	2

Juden, M. Valdes (6), Torres (7), L. Smith (8), Urbina (9) and Widger; O.Fernandez, Rau (5), Poole (6), Tavarez (6), D. Henry (7), R.Rodriguez (8), Beck (9) and Jensen. W—Juden, 3-0. L—O. Fernandez, 3-3. HRs—Montreal, Lansing 2 (4), R. White (8), H. Rodriguez (8).

Atlanta	000 010 100 1—3	8	1
Florida	000 000 110 0—2	9	1

(10 innings) G.Maddux, Wohlers (8), Byrd (9), Bielecki (10) and E. Perez; J.Lopez (9), Rapp, Cook (8), Powell (9) and C. Johnson. W—Byrd, 2-0. L—Powell, 0-1. Sv—Bielecki (2). HR—Atlanta, McGriff (5).

New York	000 010 002—4	10	0
Houston	100 000 000—1	4	1

Reynoso, J. Franco (9) and Hundley; Reynolds, Martin (9) and Ausmus. W—Reynoso, 2-0. L—Martin, 1-1. Sv—J. Franco (8). HRs—New York, Hustey (4). Houston, Bagwell (10).

Philadelphia	001 040 020—7	11	2
St. Louis	200 210 00x—14	13	4

B.Munoz, Mimbs (4), R. Harris (5), Spradlin (7), Plantenberg (7), Rufficorn (8) and Lieberthal; Raggio, Peskowski (5), Frascatore (7), McGrew (9) and Lampkin. W—Frascatore, 2-1. L—R. Harris, 0-2. HRs—Philadelphia, Jefferies (1). St. Louis, Lankford (5), Goetti (2), Gant (5).

Pittsburgh	102 244 001—14	17	0
Colorado	000 000 210—3	11	1

Schmidt, M. Wilkins (4), Weinhouse (7), Rincon (9) and Kendall; M.Thompson, Burke (4), Dipoto (5), Munoz (7), McCurry (8), B. Ruffin (9) and Manwaring. W—M. Wilkins, 2-0. L—M. Thompson, 3-3. HRs—Pittsburgh, Ronde (2), J. Griffen (3), Elster (5), Kendall (1), A.Martin (3). Colorado, Galarraga 2 (7).

Cincinnati	000 101 000—2	7	1
Los Angeles	002 200 00x—4	5	2

Schourek, Carrasco (6) and J. Oliver; Taubensee (6); R.Martinez, Te.Worrell (9) and Piazza. W—R. Martinez, 3-2. L—Schourek, 2-3. Sv—Te.Worrell (10). HR—Cincinnati, R. Sanders (4).

Chicago	000 110 100—3	11	0
San Diego	020 003 01x—6	12	0

F.Castillo, Patterson (6), Bottenfield (7), Casian (8) and M.Hubbard; Bergman, Cunnane (5), Scott (7), Hoffman (9) and Flaherty. W—Cunnane, 1-1. L—F. Castillo, 1-5. Sv—Hoffman (5). HRs—Chicago, M. Hubbard (1). San Diego, Flaherty (3).

Japanese Leagues

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Yakult	18	11	—	.621	—
Hiroshima	14	12	—	.538	2.5
Hanshin	14	14	—	.500	3.5
Chunichi	13	15	—	.464	4.5
Yokohama	12	15	—	.444	5.0
Yomiuri	12	16	—	.429	5.5

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Yakult 8, Yomiuri 2 (eight innings, rain)
Hanshin 6, Chunichi 1
Hiroshima vs. Yokohama, rained out

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Seibu	16	12	—	.571	—
Orix	13	12	—	.520	1.5
Daiei	14	13	—	.519	1.5
Nippon Ham	14	14	—	.500	2.0
Lotte	12	13	1	.480	2.5
Kintetsu	10	15	1	.400	4.5

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Seibu 2, Daiei 1 (10 innings)
Nippon Ham 6, Kintetsu 1
Lotte vs. Orix postponed, strong winds

BASKETBALL

NBA Playoffs

SECOND ROUND
(BEST-OF-SEVEN)

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

New York	23	14	29	22— 88
Miami	23	16	16	24— 79

N.Y.: Houston 8-19 6-7 27, Ewing 8-23 8-8 24; M: Hardaway 7-17 6-8 21, Mourning 7-16 6-13 20. Rebounds—New York 57 (Ewing 16), Miami 53 (Brown 12). Assists—New York 14 (Johnson, Ward 5), Miami 19 (Hardaway 6).
(New York leads series 1-0)

Seattle	32	33	17	24—106
Houston	30	17	23	31—101

S: Kemp 7-12 8-9 22, Hawkins 6-13 6-6 21; H: Drexler 10-16 2-3 25, Barkley 6-14 7-8 21. Rebounds—Seattle 45 (Kemp 15), Houston 52 (Olajuwon 12). Assists—Seattle 21 (Payton 9), Houston 25 (Drexler 8).
(series tied 1-1)

HOCKEY

NHL Playoffs

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(BEST-OF-SEVEN)

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo	1	0	0—1
Philadelphia	3	0	1—4

First Period: P-Lindros 4 (Coffey, Hawerchuk) (pp). 2. P-Hawerchuk 1 (Coffey, Snow) (pp). 3. B-Shannon 2 (Holzinger, Plante) (pp). 4. P-Brind'Amour 6 (Hawerchuk, Coffey) Second Period: None. Third Period: P-Desjardins 1, (en). Shots on goal: B- 8-4-4—16. P- 15-7-16—38. Goalies: B-Shields. P-Snow.
(Philadelphia leads series 3-0)

Colorado	1	2	0—	3
Edmonton	2	0	2—	4

First Period: C-Forsberg 5 (Kamensky, Ozolinsh) (pp). 2. E-Buchberger 4 (deVries, Arnott) 3. E-Arnott 2 (Smyth, Buchberger) Second Period: C-Kamensky 7 (Lemieux, Ozolinsh) (pp). 5. C-Lemieux 8 (Forsberg, Ozolinsh) Third Period: E-Buchberger 5 (Milronov) 7. E-Smyth 4 (McGillis, Arnott) Shots on goal: C- 7-12-5—24. E- 16-8-14—38. Goalies: C-Roy. E-Joseph.
(Colorado leads series 2-1)

Wrold Championship

MEDAL GROUP, IN HELSINKI

Sweden 5, Finland 2
Sweden 1, Czech Republic 0

STANDINGS: Sweden 8 points; Russia 5; Czech Republic 4; Canada 4; United States 3; Finland 2.

RELEGATION GROUP, IN TAMPERE

Italy 5, Germany 2
Italy 4, Slovakia 3

SOCCER

WORL CUP QUALIFIER

Ukraine 1, Armenia 1

STANDINGS: Ukraine 13 points; Germany 11; Portugal 9; Northern Ireland 7; Armenia 5; Albania 1.

UEFA CUP FINAL
FIRST LEG

Schalke 1, Internazionale 0

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Sparta Rotterdam 1, PSV Eindhoven 3
Groningen 1, Ajax Amsterdam 1

STANDINGS: PSV Eindhoven 68 points; Feyenoord 66; Twente Enschede 58; Ajax 52; Vitesse Arnhem 51; Heerenveen 50; Roda JC Kerkrade 49; Graafschap Doetinchem 39; NAC Breda 39; Groningen 33; Utrecht 32; Sparta Rotterdam 32; Fortuna Sittard 32; Willem II Tilburg 31; Volendam 31; NEC Nijmegen 25; RKC Woalwijk 25; AZ Alkmaar 22.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0

STANDINGS: Manchester United 71 points; Liverpool 67; Arsenal 65; Newcastle 64; Aston Villa 58; Chelsea 56; Sheffield Wednesday 56; Wimbledon 53; Tottenham 46; Derby 46; Leeds 45; Leicester 44; West Ham 42; Everton 42; Blackburn 41; Southampton 41; Sunderland 40; Coventry 38; Middlesbrough 37; Nottingham Forest 34.

DANISH CUP FINAL

FC Copenhagen 2, Ikast 0

CZECH CUP FINAL

Roda JC Kerkrade 4, Heerenveen 2

LIECHTENSTEIN CUP FINAL

Balzers 3, Vaduz 2, after extra time
(90 mins 1-1)

LIBERTADORES CUP
2ND ROUND, FIRST LEG

Nacional, Ecuador, 1, Cruzeiro, Brazil, 0
Nacional, Uruguay, 1, Colo Colo, Chile, 3

2ND ROUND, RETURN LEG

River Plate, Arg., 1, Racing Club, Arg., 1, Aggregate score 4-4, Racing Club win 5-3 on penalties.
Gremio, Brazil, 2, Guarany, Paraguay, 1
Aggregate score: 3-3. Gremio win 2-1 on penalties.
Penarol, Uruguay, 3 Millonarios, Colombia, 1
Aggregate score: 3-3. Penarol win 3-2 on penalties.

TRANSITIONS

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

BOSTON—Announced that M.L. Carr, director of basketball operations, has resigned and will become executive vice president for corporate development. Hired Rick Weitzman, head scout, and Jon Jennings, director of basketball development. Named Jim O'Brien and Winston Bennett assistant coaches.

PHILADELPHIA—Named Mark Turgeon assistant coach.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ARIZONA—Signed DL Mark Smith to 2-year contract.

CINCINNATI—Waived QB Kerry Joseph. K Aaron Kanner and OL Trent Pollard.

DETROIT—Waived FB Tracy Johnson.

JACKSONVILLE—Re-signed RB Randy Jordan.

KANSAS CITY—Signed RB June Henley to 3-year contract.

NEW ORLEANS—Re-signed LB Richard Harvey and OL Ed King. Signed G Darren Reese. Waived CB Eric Carter, WR Johnnie Barnes.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed G Cayetano Castro.

TAMPA BAY—Signed WR Chris Campbell and CB Floyd Young to 2-year contracts.

WASHINGTON—Re-signed DT William Gaines. Signed G Brad Badger.

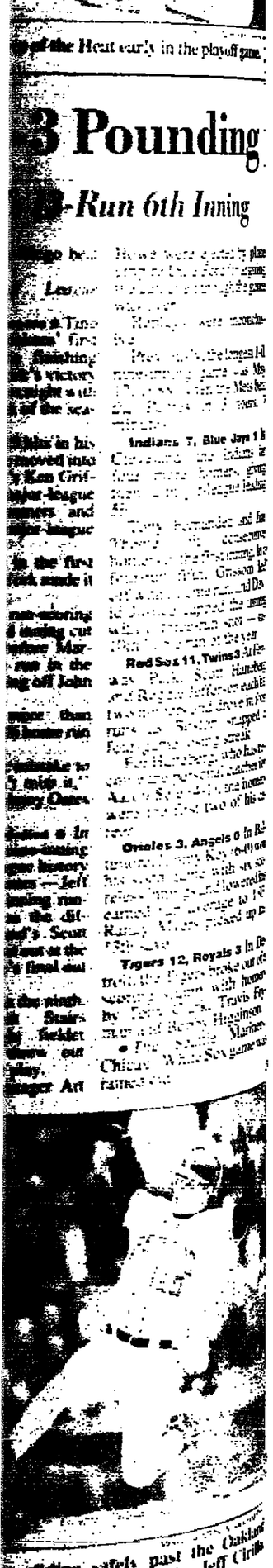
WORLD LEAGUE

AMSTERDAM—Signed QB John Socco and T Andre Hewitt. Waived QB Perry Klein and G Kenneth McDaniel.

BARCELONA—Put CB Dante DePaola on injured reserve.

FRANKFURT—Activated G Jon Heidenreich. Waived C Joe Carollo.

LONDON—Activated LB Karl Ballard.



Indians 7, Blue Jays 1 In

Red Sox 11, Twins 3 After

Orioles 3, Angels 0 In

Tigers 12, Royals 3 In

3 Pounding

-Run 6th Inning

of the Heat early in the playoff game.

sliding safely past the Oakland

scored on a single by Jeff Cirillo

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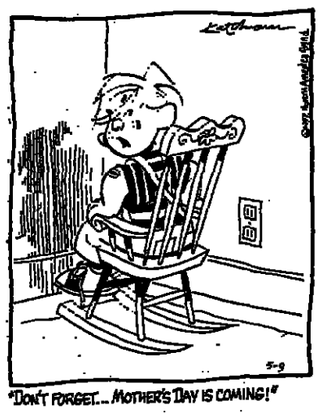


"DON'T FORGET... MOTHER'S DAY IS COMING!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNHAM
ORACK
MEEFAL
DESEEC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

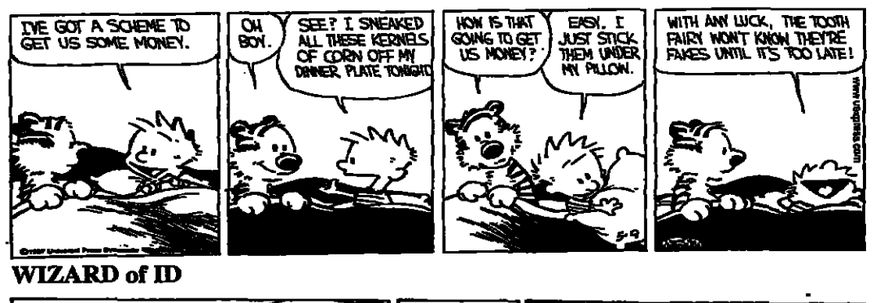
Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VOUGH TAKEN UNPACK POCKET
Answer: To her fans, she was the – A KNOCKOUT

PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBES



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WIZARD of ID

BEETLE BAILEY

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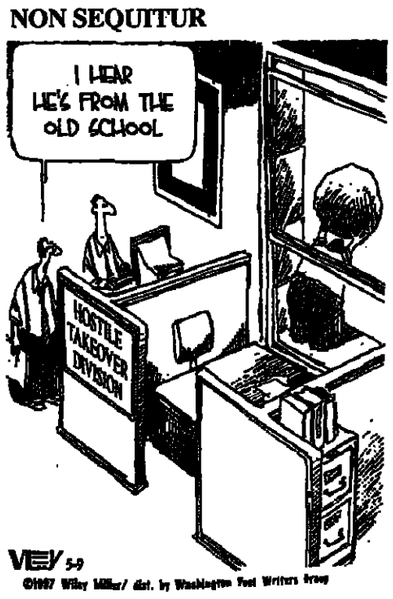
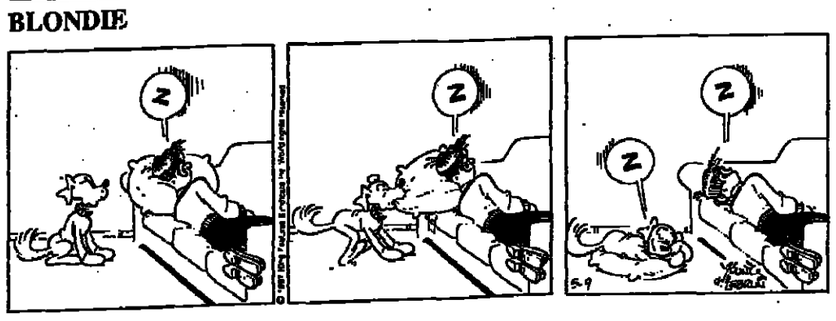


DOONESBURY

BLONDIE



OBSERVER

How Times Change!

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — I went to Baltimore for a college reunion. Checked into a hotel. Pretty good hotel. You could open a window, get some fresh air. In a lot of hotels nowadays it's breathe that old second-hand, used air or do without.

The bellboy said did I want some ice. Bellboys always say that. I always say yes, bring some ice. Don't know what to do with the ice when it comes.

I have this room for three days. Cost for three days is more than a whole year's tuition when I first went to this college. And that's with the special reduced rate for old grads. Otherwise, a two-day stay would cost more than tuition for a whole year cost back then. How times do change!

Back then there was no watching a movie in hotel rooms — no TV — which I decided to do. Checked list of movies, special attention to X-raters, always called dirty movies back then. In all Baltimore there wasn't one dirty-movie house back then. Just the Gayety burlesque. Margie Hart, Evelyn West and Her Treasure Chest. Now, right here in this room, seven or eight spicy flicks.

□

Decided I'd better not. Always decide I'd better not when staying in hotels. Officials — FBI, CIA, local cops, militant feminists — probably recording room numbers of all X- rated viewers. This hotel says no records are kept of what you're watching. Still — could be a lie. Way to trap the saps.

So instead I watched Barbra Streisand. She marries this calculus teacher because he hates carnal relations. Or something. Is it comedy or heartbreak, Barbra? You've got to decide these things if you're going to make movies.

$8.50 it cost, on top of the room rate. That would have bought 85 streetcar rides to this college back then. How times do change! No wonder it costs $4 million to send a kid to college these days.

What's this! A red light on the phone. I have a message, says the ghastly voice-mail voice. "Call your office."

□

So I punched 25 numbers. "Not good enough," said the phone. Of course it wasn't. Stupidly, I'd failed to start by punching 9 for calls outside the hotel.

So I punched 26 numbers. The phone made nasty sounds. A voice asked what I thought I was doing. This phone wasn't licensed to transmit calls via AT&T, you dope.

She said why not use your personal card. "Stuff it," I thought, but didn't say, hanging up and delving into my wallet for the ancient piece of paper on which I had several hundred other numbers for such emergencies.

What's this! Lost my wallet? No. It turned up 30 minutes later hiding under the ice bucket. I punched 31 numbers. Got a real-estate agent in Manhattan.

How times do change!

Figured some reunion activity would clear my mind. After getting back from the reunion dinner I'd probably be able to tackle all 31 numbers with more zest for the test.

That's what I figured. So what I did was repeat the 31 numbers over and over at dinner, which nobody noticed because everybody else was saying, "How times do change!"

New York Times Service

White House to Roadhouse: Ahmet Ertegun

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Ahmet Ertegun always had a feel for what people wanted to listen to. In his early twenties, he was spending a lot of time in record stores and it was obvious to him that the major recording companies were missing a whole segment of the market.

Atlantic Records, which Ertegun co-founded in 1948 through a $10,000 loan from his dentist, became, along with Motown, one of the most successful black music labels. Built by Ertegun, his brother Nesuhi and the producer Jerry Wexler, the company played a large part in introducing rhythm and blues acts like LaVern Baker, Big Joe Turner, Ruth Brown and The Coasters to the white audience. Then Ray Charles crossed over for them, followed by, after Columbia made a fool of itself miscasting her as a pop singer, Aretha Franklin. It was said that Wexler "put Aretha where she belonged: in church."

Although Ertegun likes to think he stays in touch, at the age of 72, keeping that feel is "no longer so easy." He loves the singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow and the band Stone Temple Pilots, but he admits that the only way he can listen to much of the new rock and roll is "drunk."

His father was the Turkish ambassador to Paris, London and then Washington. Ertegun is comfortable chatting in French with architects (his wife, Mica, is an interior designer), chansonniers (Charles Aznavour) and sports stars (Michel Platini). The Ertegun brothers founded and funded what Ertegun proudly calls "the best soccer club in the world": the New York Cosmos, with Pele and Franz Beckenbauer.

In his book "Mansion on the Hill," Fred Goodman describes Ertegun: "Like no one else, he was as at home in the White House as in a roadhouse." One three-day business trip took him to Paris for the opening of a Picasso exhibition at the Pompidou Center as the guest of President and Madame Pompidou, to London for an aperitif with Eric Clapton and then to Cleveland for a meeting with an influential disk jockey.

Some 20 years after founding Atlantic, he sold it to Warner Seven Arts, which merged with Warner Communications Inc., and then in turn it became the music division of Time Warner, one of the most powerful multimedia, multinational companies. He remains co-chairman and co-CEO of what he calls the "Atlantic Group." It has 10 percent of the American market for sound recordings.

Christian Rose

Ertegun was a co-founder of Atlantic Records, one of the most successful black music labels.

Ertegun wants to be sure to go on record that he loves the music called rap: "Rap is not new and it's not a fad. It's not going to disappear. Like R&B, it reaches white kids too. It's derived from the blues and music derived from the blues has become the music of the world."

Members of committees defending children from pornography have "come to see us about the so-called dirty words and violence in rap lyrics." Atlantic puts "parental guidance" stickers on certain albums, but Ertegun believes that to a large extent rap is just another example of the older generation not understanding what their grandchildren are listening to: "The lyrical content of rap will change when living conditions of urban people in American cities change." His grandparents did not approve of swing music.

Jaunty, boldly cultured, carrying an elegant walking stick, he is an imposing and widely respected figure. Paintings by Picasso hang on the walls of his apartment. His ideas are taken seriously: "I think that the two most significant people in the arts in our century are Pablo Picasso and Louis Armstrong. Armstrong redefined musical phrasing. When I say 'phrasing,' I mean that he invented the concept of swing.

"Louis changed not only the way people play but the way they sing; Ella Fitzgerald, for example. There were other people who played and sang well but they never developed the influence Louis had on other people. Just like other talented painters around Picasso's time were not influential."

On the jazz side, Nesuhi, who died in 1989; signed the Modern Jazz Quartet and Ornette Coleman to Atlantic. The company became increasingly attracted to white rock — Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Cream, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones.

After the last nightcap, when everybody else goes home, Ertegun is often just getting started. Wining and dining Mick Jagger helped him sign the Stones when they were looking for a new label. In his book "Hit Men," Frederic Dannen quotes Ertegun: "I think Jagger would have liked to be on Excello [a small funk label]. We were the closest he could get to Excello and still get $5 million."

It's better now, but in the old days the people who handled the money somehow got to keep most of it. Ertegun cites the shabby treatment suffered by the early black performers, including low royalty rates and creative bookkeeping. Trying to begin to redress the balance, Atlantic Records has contributed $1.5 million in seed money to the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which, Ertegun explains, "takes care of indigent R&B singers and players. And we forgave debit balances.

"Some of our competitors did not even have bookkeeping departments. They just said, 'Here's a Cadillac,' instead of sending statements and paying royalties. Atlantic never did any of that stuff but I'm the last person from that era left, so I guess I bear the brunt of everybody else's sins."

For example, in his newsletter, Rock and Rap Confidential, the critic Dave Marsh writes: "Ertegun showed up at the annual R&B Foundation self-congratulatory spectacle in a regal limousine, wearing handmade shoes."

He recently ran into the retired producer ("sing along with") Mitch Miller, who said: "See how the business has changed? We used to have two-page contracts. Now they got 200 pages. We used to make a record in three hours. Now it's three months. I couldn't stand being in the record business any more. Could you?"

"I'm in it," Ertegun replied.

PEOPLE

THE former Washington Redskins' owner **Jack Kent Cooke** has left the bulk of his $825 million fortune to charity — and nothing to **Suzanne Elizabeth Martin**, the mother of his 9-year-old daughter, **Jacqueline**. Cooke died last month of heart disease at 84. In the will, he left his son, **John Kent Cooke**, $10 million outright and put $15 million in a trust for him and his wife and also set up a $5 million trust fund for his daughter. Each of his five grandchildren received a $1 million trust fund. Executors of the estate have filed a lawsuit to determine what the estate's responsibilities are to Cooke's widow, **Marlena**. The document also instructed the executors to create the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which may award scholarships to young men and women who have shown unusual intelligence and character, and also may create and operate schools for underprivileged children.

□

The new owner of a 90-year-old teddy bear paid 277,200 kroner ($44,700) for it. The toy, which belonged to the late **King Frederik IX** of Denmark, the father of **Queen Margrethe**, was sold at auction to an unidentified buyer. The yellow bear with a red scarf made by the German toymaker Steiff had been expected to fetch 30,000 to 40,000 kroner. The bear was found last year in the attic of a royal castle.

□

Oprah Winfrey, the talk-show queen, is the target of a $1 million lawsuit by a photographer, **Paul Natkin**, who accuses her of using his photos in her best-selling book "Make the Connection." Natkin also charged that Winfrey had not returned negatives of several thousand photographs he took as a free-lance photographer for Winfrey's television show. . . . Winfrey and **Danny Glover**, who starred together 12 years ago in "The Color Purple," will be reunited in the movie version of "Beloved," **Toni Morrison**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The movie will be directed by **Jonathan Demme** and filmed in Philadelphia.

□

David Duchovny, the hunky investigator of Fox's hit television series "The X-Files," has married **Tea Leoni**, the bright light of the NBC comedy "The Naked Truth," according to the New York Daily News. The couple exchanged vows at Grace Church School in Greenwich Village, where Duchovny went to school and where his mother still teaches. It is his first marriage and Leoni's second.

□

The Greek composer **Mikis Theodorakis** has been released from an Athens hospital after three days of tests. Theodorakis, 71, who went into the hospital after suffering respiratory problems Sunday during a concert in Berlin says he will take a six-month break from work.

□

With the 20th anniversary of **Elvis Presley**'s death drawing near, the Memphis-based firm managing his estate is putting the finishing touches to a dazzling memorial bash. "You'll think he's back," said **Todd Morgan**, a spokesman for the Graceland museum and entertainment complex. The nine-day event from Aug. 9 to 17 will end with a special concert in which the late rock star will be reunited via video technology with 30 to 40 musicians and associates who worked with him on stage through the years. RCA will mark the anniversary by issuing 77 unreleased Elvis recordings. The four-CD set will include a Presley version of **Bob Dylan**'s "Blowin' in the Wind" and songs recorded when the late rock star was serving with the army in Germany.

□

Two photographers who boxed in **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and his wife, **Maria Shriver**, while they were driving their children to school, have turned themselves in to police. The photographers could be charged with hit and run and reckless driving — they bumped Schwarzenegger's car — but they were set free since their misdemeanors did not warrant an arrest, the police said.

□

Singer **Toni Braxton** poses with only a strategically placed sheet on the cover of the latest Vibe magazine and talks sex inside. "I was 20 years old when I lost my virginity," Braxton, 29, said in the interview. The Grammy winner readily agreed to pose for the cover, said Vibe's art director, **Lee Ellen Fanning**, and said Braxton suggested a "Victoria's Secret theme" to complement her new album, "Secrets."

Laurent Rebours/The Associated Press

CANNES FESTIVAL — Jeanne Moreau hugging the director Michelangelo Antonioni, who received a replacement Palme d'Or. The one he won in 1967 for "Blow Up" was stolen. *(More Cannes news, Page 10.)*

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